

# Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, November 30, 2017

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## LANDMARK POLICE BUILDING FINALLY SOLD – FOR LESS THAN £1M



The former station served Walsall for 50 years

THE former Walsall police station has been touted for a 'mixed use development' after it was sold delivering crucial funding for the cash-strapped force.

Property agency KWB announced the six-storey office block has been purchased by Henley-in-Arden-based Corbally Property Investments, which was formerly known as St Francis Property Investments.

The firm also confirmed the final sale price was less than the original £1million asking price although they would not state the exact amount.

The 36,500 sq ft building on the corner of Green Lane and Blue Lane East has sat empty since October 9, 2016, after serving as the town's main police base for 50 years.

Bloxwich police station is now the borough's force headquarters while dozens of officers serving Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck and St Matthews have moved into Walsall Civic Centre. There was said to be a lot of interest in the landmark station property which includes offices, a gym, kitchen and internal car parking.

At least one solid offer has been made for the building in the last 12 months however the deal fell through. KWB confirmed Corbally were behind the offer that emerged in September which was accepted, stating the company were planning to bring a 'mixed use development' forward. Although the firm itself was not able to elaborate on the redevelopment plans at this stage.

The station was one of 27 to be closed by West Midlands Police in a bid to generate cash. The sale was confirmed alongside that of Shirley station in Solihull going through.

Both deals have resulted in a combined £2.25 million for the police. The force has had to absorb Government cuts of £145m and reduction of more than 2,000 officers since 2010. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, who has campaigned for better funding, declared the money would be 'vital' going forward.

He said: "I am delighted more than £2m has been raised by the sale of these police stations.

"The money raised from this sale will help me invest in vital police services."

### ENCAMPMENT

## Travellers removed using new powers

AN illegal encampment in Walsall was removed within hours as new powers to evict travellers from sites were put into action for the first time.

A number of caravans set up camp at the Wakes Ground car park in Willenhall on Thursday, which was one of 11 sites covered by an injunction granted to Walsall Council. Leaders have said the quick removal of the encampment showed their 'hard work has paid off'.

The car park and all 11 new sites have now been added to an original list of 12 that are now covered by injunctions, which give councils authorisation to evict travellers more quickly and save taxpayers money from expensive court proceedings, officer time and the cost of clearing sites.

Walsall leisure chief, Councillor Ian Shires, said: "I would like to thank the officers involved for all the hard work that had gone into securing the injunctions through the courts earlier this month. All that work has clearly paid off today as community protection officers and police were able to clear the site within hours."

Councillor Shires said: "This was a great success but our defence isn't perfect yet. I still believe we need to set up a travellers site in the borough."

### TRAGEDY

## Public inquiry called over 'roads to hell'

CALLS have been made to install digital speed cameras on a busy road following a fatal hit and run.

Walsall councillor Doug James who represents Darlaston South has also called for a public inquiry into last Wednesday's incident, when a man died after being knocked off his bike on Midland Road by a hit-and-run driver. He said: "Darlaston has paid a heavy price of late for the careless and lethal actions of speeding motorists on our local 'roads to hell'."

A cyclist was also taken to hospital with head injuries after a collision the week before near Woden Road West in Darlaston.

He wants an action plan for road safety in Darlaston and will be writing to the Minister for Transport Chris Grayling, the Mayor of West Midlands Andy Street and Police Commissioner for the West Midlands, David Jamieson.

### INSIDE

## Sweet result for Chocolate Box



PAGE 5

## Residents complain to watchdog team about meal delays

# SAFETY FEARS AT CARE HOME

A CARE home in the Black Country has been placed in special measures after a damning inspection from a health watchdog.

C&V Orchard Residential Care Home in Station Street, Darlaston, has been rated inadequate by the CQC across the board after inspectors found that staff 'didn't always make sure residents had enough to eat and drink', with concerns also raised about safety at the home.

The home, which provides care and accommodation for up to 32 elderly people, was also found to have made seven breaches of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and one breach of the Care Quality Commission (Registration) 2009 during the inspection.

### Dinner

The CQC report reads: "At our previous two inspections in June 2016 and May 2017 we saw people were kept waiting for their meals to be served for periods exceeding 50 minutes.

"One person told us, 'I want my dinner but I have to wait, it's always like this.' We saw people were sat for periods exceeding 35 minutes before receiving their meals. We looked at the records for one person that required their food and fluid intake to be monitored. We saw staff recorded amounts given to the person. However we found information was not recorded consistently and we could not be sure this person received adequate amounts of food and drink to maintain their health."

### Report by Jordan Harris

The unannounced inspection at the home took place on September 20 and 21 and saw the home's rating slip from requires improvement to inadequate.

Staff were also criticised over moving and handling techniques by inspectors. The report reads: "Staff did not have the skills and knowledge they required to meet people's needs. For example we saw numerous occasions when unsafe moving and handling techniques were being used."

"In addition we saw that staff did not ask people for consent when delivering care and were restricting people's movement around the home."

A spokesperson for the home said: "We are now working hard to ensure we are up to the CQC's standards."

## Church where Yule get double the fun



Ken and Alison Morris with a raffle prizes for sale at one of the festive events

IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas at a village church.

St Michael's in Pelsall staged a festive market on Saturday and the festive fun continues at the weekend when the church will come alive with the sound of Christmas classics.

Walsall Symphony Orchestra and Rider Hayes School Choir will team up to sing everyone's favourite festive tracks, both classic and more recent pop songs for a unique concert.

Each group will perform individually but will also team up for the show, which starts at 7pm on Saturday.

Tickets are £5 and Rev Alison Morris said: "The Christmas Concert will feature some brilliant musicians and singers, I can't wait to see them perform together myself. The night should have something for everyone, with lots of Christmas songs old and new being performed."

Rev Morris added that she would love to see members of the Pelsall community attend.



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# Praise as school out of special measures

A WALSALL school has climbed out of special measures and is 'rapidly improving' under a new headteacher, according to a inspectors.

West Walsall E-Act Academy, formerly Alumwell Business and Enterprise College, was praised by Ofsted following its latest inspection.

The school, which was 774 pupils, was placed into special measures back in 2014 and had not improved by the time of its last inspection in 2016.

However, following the appointment of Qamar Riaz as head last April, the school has completed a staggering turnaround and is now rated as 'good'.

After last year's inspection the school was rated inadequate across the board but is now good in every category except for outcomes for pupils, which requires improvement.

Inspector Rob Steed said: "The headteacher, staff and the trust have successfully addressed the school's previous weaknesses.

"Improvements since March 2016 have been significant and this is a rapidly improving school. Staff, pupils, parents and the trust work together effectively so that the headteacher's vision is being realised."

Mr Riaz said: "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised the significant improvements we have made to the quality of education in a relatively short period of time."

# Head wound no laugh for comic

BEING a comedian proved a dangerous profession for Staffordshire-born Chris Stokes who is currently on tour with Milton Jones.

Chris, from Great Wyrley, found himself in hospital with a head wound after cutting his head on a lighting rig at Ipswich Regent theatre.

He said: "Surprisingly it didn't really hurt. I knew I'd hit my head but didn't know how badly until the horrified staff watched the blood pour out of the wound. I got nine staples in my head. I still made it back to the theatre by the end of the show though."

Supporting Milton Jones, Chris appeared at both Wolverhampton Civic Hall and Dudley Town Hall recently. The tour comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on February 11.

# Crime on agenda

A PUBLIC meeting on tackling crime takes place in Willenhall next week.

The meeting is at the Chart Centre in Gomer Street, from 6.30pm on December 8. Residents and traders can air views with councillors and police.

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# DIY detective dad finds stolen bike



Paul Jones, from Walsall, who tracked down his son's stolen bike

A FATHER took matters into his own hands to track down his son's stolen bicycle. Michael Jones' £500 Carrera Sulcata bike was stolen from a friend's house in Walsall two weeks ago.

His father Paul claims the police took their time responding to his initial report so he decided to track down the bicycle, which was a 16th birthday present, himself.

After trawling through websites Mr Jones found the green bicycle for sale – recognising it thanks to specific repairs that had been done to it.

Mr Jones then passed the details onto police and officers travelled to Coventry where they retrieved the bicycle.

He said it was crucial he found the bike because Michael uses it to travel to college and 'idolised it'.

The 53-year-old caretaker said: "I phoned the police initially but they didn't seem to want to know.

"When we found it on a buy and sell website, the seller agreed to give it to us and we got his address and then we went to Bloxwich Police station for help to get it back.

"Michael idolised that bike, he would ride it everywhere.

"Without it, it would take him three-quarters of an hour to get to college."

Mr Jones gave the bike to his son for his 16th birthday in April this year.

It cost £340 to buy but needed £160 worth of repairs after an accident, meaning he spent a total of around £500 on it. The bike was stolen on November 18.

A police spokesman said they are still working to identify who stole it.

# Cost of dying in Walsall set for increase of 6pc

CREMATION fees could go up for the next two years in a bid to generate an extra £360,000, prompting criticism that it is 'cheaper to stay alive'.

The latest Walsall Council draft budget includes proposals to increase cremation fees by six per cent in 2018/19 and 2019/20, with the authority hoping to rake in an extra £180,000 a year for each of those.

It comes as an attempt to make an extra £31 million in cuts across the board during the period.

Currently, cremation fees for someone aged 16 and under cost £274, which would increase to £290 from April under the proposal.

For people aged 17 and over, the fee is currently £781, which would go up to £827.

A late service fee would also increase from £105 to £111. The council has defended the proposed increases by saying they are in line with other neighbouring areas.

## Quality

Change agenda chief Councillor Ian Shires said: "The fee increase was consulted upon in 2016 as part of the council's four year financial plan.

"Walsall fees remain broadly in line with the other Black Country local authorities and this income will also help the council continue to provide high quality bereavement services in the borough."

Leader of the opposing Conservative group Councillor Mike Bird said: "I think we are, on average, slightly higher than most other areas in the Black Country.

"It costs money to die. It seems cheaper to stay alive."

Deputy Leader Lee Jeavons said last week the funding reductions were 'operational' and not 'policy' savings adding there would be 'little or no' impact on services.

Councillor Bird added: "They keep saying the savings will be made through efficiencies but what that means is jobs will be lost."

## Winter death victims vigil at church



Mayor of Walsall Councillor Marco Longhi, right, with, from left, chairman of Walsall Pensioners Convention Graham Garbet, chairman of West Midlands Pensioners Convention Dorothy Lamb and Rev

A CANDLELIT vigil has been held in memory of the thousands of people in the UK who die unnecessarily during the winter period.

The ceremony at The Crossing at St Pauls on Wednesday and was organised by the Walsall and West Midlands branches of the Pensioners' Convention. Graham Garbet, chairman of the Walsall branch, said: "The UK has an appalling record on cold related

deaths with one older person dying every seven minutes from the winter cold.

"Successive Governments have ignored the problem of winter deaths. The key is to make sure that older people have got well insulated, warm homes and the income needed to pay bills."

Figures from the Office of National Statistics state that in 2014/15 there were 43,900 'excess' winter deaths in England

and Wales representing 27 per cent more deaths in those months than non-winter months.

Last year the number fell to 34,000 and 34 candles were lit at the vigil to mark those.

Mayor Marco Longhi, who attended the service, said: "It was a very moving ceremony to raise the profile and acknowledge the plight of so many elderly people. It was to highlight the unnecessary suffering of people in our country

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bus stab suspect caught on film

POLICE have released an image of a man wanted over a stabbing following an altercation on a bus. A teenager was stabbed six times and detectives have named Travon Poleate as their chief suspect.

Officers were called to Dyas Road on September 8 following reports the 17-year-old victim was chased off the number 28 bus before being attacked with a knife. The victim was taken to hospital but has since made a full recovery.

Poleate – an American national who has previously been living in Hockley and has links to Handsworth – is described as black, 6ft 2ins tall, slim with afro-style hair.

Anyone with information is asked to contact West Midlands Police on 101 quoting the crime reference 20BW/191892H/17.

## Asian jewellery taken by raiders

LARGE amounts of Asian jewellery were taken from a Black Country home after burglars gained entry through a kitchen window.

The burglary took place in Ripon Road near Walsall Manor Hospital between 6pm and 7.30pm on November 17.

A West Midlands Police spokeswoman, said: "The burglars gained entry through a rear ground-floor window. A large quantity of Asian jewellery and £500 cash was taken.

"Officers have been speaking to shops in Wolverhampton as part of their investigations."

Anyone with information can call police on 101 quoting crime reference number 20WS250880V17.

## Battle is won on homes scheme

CAMPAIGNERS have warned they had 'won the battle but not the war' after controversial plans for up to 90 homes on green belt land were refused.

It was feared the proposals for Upper Landywood Lane near Cheslyn Hay would effectively merge the village with Great Wyrley. But South Staffs Council refused the plans against the recommendation of planning officers.

More than 1,500 people signed a petition against it because of fears over increased traffic that it would threaten the identities of Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, and Landywood. But campaigners said there could be an appeal.



The CCTV image

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# COUNTY NEWS

## Search on for best bus drivers

THE search is on to recognise the region's best bus drivers. Arriva wants to say a huge thank you to the bus drivers who provide such a vital service to passengers in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

The annual Made A Difference (M.A.D) awards aim to celebrate the work done by Arriva staff and thank individuals for their hard work.

If nominated, your local bus driver could be invited to a glamorous gala dinner to find Arriva's Bus Driver of the Year . To nominate, visit [www.arrivabus.co.uk/doty](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/doty), with the first round of nominations closing on Friday December 15.

## Big otter-tunity to join wildlife study

A WILDLIFE trust is looking for volunteer otter spotters to help survey the River Stour.

Hannah Lewis, from the Birmingham and the Black Country trust, recently discovered signs of otters at a housing development. It is the first time signs of otters have been spotted at the location. Now the Trust wants to survey the river to see where otter populations are thriving to get an idea of which parts of the Stour are in good health – and which are not.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer to become an otter spotter across various locations on the River Stour can call Hannah on 0121 523 0094.

## Foreigner foray for blues star Jo

BLACK Country blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor is set to support rock icons Foreigner on their upcoming UK tour. She will also be joined by artist John Parr at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on May 15.

The artist is also set to headline the Saturday of Planet Rockstock in Trecco Bay on December 2.

The Wednesbury-born guitarist will appear alongside the likes of Monster Truck, Dan Reed Network, King King and Thunder.

## Toolstation branch opens for business

TOOLSTATION has announced the opening of a new branch in the West Midlands.

The new Toolstation is at Unit 2, Ionic Business Park, Birmingham New Road, Dudley. It is open for business seven days a week, from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sundays. Previously located in Great Bridge, all business and employees transferred to Dudley.



1. Tink often stops to say hello to Bob the goldfish



2. Teddy's confused between a dovecote and a dove cat



3. African pygmy hedgehog Flossy in her woolly nest



4. Bear loves to bite toes and chase around the garden



5. Tortoise Fred lives in the garden and just loves eating buttercups on the lawn



6. Bags of room in here – Benji finds this is a comfortable place to bed down



7. Together – four-year-old guinea pigs Billy and Tom share a very special bond



8. Reeves and Mortimer who were always up to mischief when they were kittens



9. Olaf the rabbit was found in a carrier bag in a tree. Here he is with best friend Anya



10. Milo, a Staffie cross, came from the Dogs Trust and loves doing agility tricks

# YOUR TIME TO VOTE

**WELL** the time has come for you readers to have your say.

For weeks we have been bombarded by lovely pictures of your treasured pets – and we thank everyone for taking the time to send in all the wonderful entries.

We have already carried some of the entries in our weekly pets competition page throughout all our seven editions.

There was so much choice it was difficult for us to pick out the final 10 for the shortlist.

### Variety

All of them so cute and obviously so loved. The pride shone through in the emails we received – some sending in more than one picture of their special pet.

The variety of pets has been huge – lots of cats and dogs, turtles, ponies, hamsters, tortoise etc. Noah could have filled his ark several times over!

But now it is decision time. On the right is the voting form with all the details our readers need to let us know which is their favourite.

We will carry the pictures again next week and the winner will be announced next month with the best-loved picture carried on the front of our

ANIMAL CRACKERS

To vote for your favourite photograph either email the picture number to [sue.athwater@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:sue.athwater@expressandstar.co.uk) or tick one box on this form and send it to Sue Athwater, The Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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PICTURE 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 9 <input type="checkbox"/>
PICTURE 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 10 <input type="checkbox"/>

Christmas editions. And the winner will also receive a £100 cash prize.

We are not just looking for the cutest pet – although some are very difficult to resist – but the best picture itself, one that you would pick out if you saw it in the paper.

So look closely at the 10 shortlisted pictures and choose the one you think deserves the prize.

We will be counting up the votes after the second week of running the shortlist. Entries must be in by Monday, December 12.

This is your chance to have your say!

## Students and businesses benefit in pilot scheme

WALSALL College students are working with business owners in Lichfield to create a website – in return for free goods.

In a free pilot initiative, small-business owners exchange a free product or service in return for a website.

The matchmaking service is believed to be the first of its kind in the world and is the brainchild of the UK Domain. It aims to help more small-business owners get online.

More than a quarter of British small businesses on the high street still don't have a website, often because they are unsure how to start the process.

Higher education computing students from Walsall College are paired with local independent businesses to create a simple website that includes key company information such as services on offer, opening hours and location, so current and potential customers can easily find their business online.

Businesses can offer 'payment-in-kind' to the students for their website build in the form of free products and services – anything from handbags to haircuts.

The initiative was launched after research found that 28 per cent of small business owners not online would be interested in getting a website if somebody managed the process for them.

Mina Katti, curriculum manager for computing at Walsall College said: "This exciting initiative is a win-win for all involved. As well as the freebies, students gain invaluable experience in practical web-building, giving them a step up on the career ladder."

## Foundations laid for new care unit

A MULTI-million expansion of Walsall Manor Hospital's critical care unit has moved a major step forward.

Foundations are now in place for the new unit, in the former west wing, which will see an increase from 13 beds to 18. It is expected the project will be finished by winter 2018.

Russell Caldicott, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's lead director for the ICCU scheme, said: "Now the steel framework is up we can all get a sense of this new unit taking shape, although we're well aware that so much work has been going on since the demolition of the inside of the former west wing.

"Our new ICCU will transform the environment in which our sickest patients receive care and our HDU and ITU staff can't wait to move in."

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# Christmas wrapped up by hospital volunteers

PEOPLE looking to donate Christmas gifts to a hospital this year are being asked to make sure they are unwrapped to help volunteers with checks.

During a busy few festive weeks, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust fundraising team, staff and volunteers will have to sort through a bumper batch of presents to ensure they are safe enough for young patients and help hand them out across the hospital.

Georgie Westley, fundraising manager for the trust, said: "Christmas is one of our busiest times both in the hospital and across our community services as we work to give out the presents that people have so kindly donated.

"Our team of fundraising supporters have to unwrap all the wrapped items so we can check they're safe for our young patients. It will also help us to make sure that they're appropriate age-wise.

"We want to make it a little easier for them this year by asking people to hand in gifts that are unwrapped so we can speed up the checking process."

To donate unwrapped Christmas gifts, take them to Georgie who is based in the Purple Hub on the out-patients corridor at the hospital.

The hub is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. For more information visit [www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk](http://www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk)

# Babcock's sales and profits up

ENGINEERING giant Babcock, which employs hundreds of people in Walsall, has played down economic concerns after revealing improved sales.

The company boosted sales by 6.6 per cent to £2.3 billion in the six months to September 30, while operating profits were four per cent up at £172.2 million.

In 2015, for £66 million, Babcock bought out the specialist vehicle builder MacNeillie at Walsall, which employs about 300 people in Stockton Close and builds ambulances, riot vans and armoured cars for diplomats and VIPs.

Chief executive Archie Bethel said Babcock made "good progress" over the period.

# Christmas history

CHESLYN Hay & District Local History Society welcome John S White tonight (Thursday) for a talk on 'Christmas with Mr Samuel Adams (in Jane Austen's time)'. It is at the Salem, High Street, at 7.30pm.

# Cyclist dies following hit and run



Police at the scene in Darlaston

A CYCLIST has died following a hit and run in Darlaston, during the early hours. The man was knocked from his bike at about 3.20am last Wednesday on Midland Road, Darlaston near to the roundabout where the road meets The Green.

An ambulance arrived at the scene eight minutes after a call was made, to find members of the public carrying out CPR on the victim, with a second ambulance and a paramedic officer also sent to the scene. Police are now appealing for information in relation to the driver of the vehicle involved.

Det Sgt Paul Hughes from the force collision investigation unit, said: "We understand the man was knocked off his bike by a car driver just after 3.30am and that the driver sped away from the scene, leaving the cyclist critically injured in the road.

"A police family liaison officer has been assigned to the man's family to offer support at this tragic time."

Councillor Doug James, who represents Darlaston South, called the hit and run a 'dreadful crime' and called for digital speed cameras to be installed on Midland Road.

He said: "I would like to pass on local residents' heartfelt condolences and their thanks to the ambulance teams who tried to save the cyclist's life. The police team have also been excellent in supporting local people.

"Locally we have been plagued by speeding motorists but people are fighting back with Speedwatch schemes and police assistance.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Unit on 0121 322 6098 or by email at [fl\\_collision\\_invest@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fl_collision_invest@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

# Couple ready for sweet retirement with closure

**A COUPLE who have been at the helm of a popular Walsall shop for five decades are set to enjoy a sweet retirement.**

John and Maureen Hayward will retire from running The Chocolate Box in Bridge Street by the end of this year.



Maureen and John

The closure will bring to an end to the shop's long-running link with the town centre.

The couple took over The Chocolate Box in Bridge Street from Mr Haywood's father Alec in 1967 and while they have witnessed many other businesses fail, they have enjoyed sweet success ever since.

The business was established in 1934 under its original name of Job-lins.

However, its owners have decided to call time on their career serving

bon-bons and cola bottles to confectionery-lovers in the borough and are now looking forward to retirement.

John said: "We have had a great time running the shop but everything has to end at some point. We have had people asking why we are going to close down but it is the right decision."

The shop will now be taken over by Alsopp and Associates Dental Practice, which is currently based above.

John said: "We have had a good relationship with the dentist and we are happy that the site will still be used.

"For me and Maureen, this is a time to relax, maybe do some travelling and enjoy ourselves. "I have looked forward to coming into work for all of these years but now I am looking forward to putting my feet up at last."

Maureen said: "It is sad, we love our customers and the shop is clearly a big part of the town, but we are going to enjoy our retirement."



John Haywood and shop assistant at the Chocolate Box, Ann Jeffs. Ann has worked there for 20 years

# School is out of special measures

A SCHOOL has come out of special measures and is 'rapidly improving' under a new headteacher, according to inspectors.

West Walsall E-ACT Academy, formerly Alumwell Business and Enterprise College, has been praised by Ofsted following a two-day inspection three weeks ago.

The school, which has 774 pupils on its roll, was placed in special

measures in 2014 and had not improved at the time of its last inspection in March 2016.

However, following the appointment of new headteacher Qamar Riaz in April last year, the school is now rated as 'good'. In 2016 the school was rated inadequate across the board but is now good in every category except for outcomes for pupil, which 'requires

improvement'. Ofsted inspector Rob Stead said: "The headteacher, staff and the trust have successfully addressed the school's previous weaknesses.

"Improvements since March 2016 have been significant and this is a rapidly improving school. Leaders have created a culture in which pupils flourish socially and academically."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## £400k police bill in wake of terror

POLICE were forced to find £400,000 to pay for officer overtime and extra staffing costs in Staffordshire following this year's terror attacks.

Officers were put on 12-hour shifts and guarded landmarks such as Lichfield Cathedral when the terror threat level was raised to 'critical' after Manchester and London attacks.

Staffordshire Police Chief Constable Gareth Morgan warned the money had to come from the force's reserves not covered by 'protected' counter terrorism budgets.

West Midlands Police previously revealed it had to find £1 million to put more officers on patrol.

## Baby boy turns up safe and well

A FOUR-month-old child who went missing with his mother has been found safe and well.

Lincoln Davis and mother Jessica Davis, aged 25, had not been seen since Friday, November 17.

The following Tuesday afternoon the mother was found and West Midlands Police later revealed her son had also been found. Just hours earlier the force had issued an appeal for information.

It posted on Twitter: "GOOD NEWS - Missing 4-month-old, Lincoln Davis has been found safe and well."

## Charity Christmas concert by ladies

PELSALL Ladies Choir is hosting its annual charity Christmas concert at St Michael's Church on Friday December 15, starting at 7.30pm.

The group is made up of ladies of all ages and they sing for many worthy causes, including the church roof and heating fund.

Tickets cost £6 and are available from choir members, Kind Thoughts, High Street, Pelsall or payable on the door.

A spokesman said: "We will be singing some of your festive favourites and have supporting guest performances."

## Fire service loses 3,636 staff shifts

MORE than 3,600 fire service shifts – including firefighters – are expected to be lost by the end of the year due to sickness. And around 30 per cent of those absences at Staffordshire Fire Service are down to mental health issues, it has been revealed.

The force has said that the absence rates have a direct impact on services and finances. In total, 2,121 shifts have been lost to unplanned absence between April 1 and October 31.

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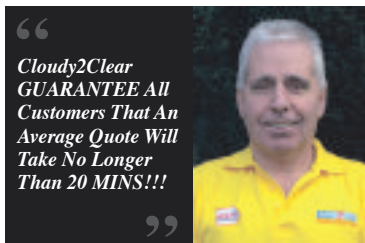
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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# No way is student chav party 'classist'

WHEN I read that a group of students at Birmingham University were organising a chav-themed Christmas party, my initial thought was "where can I get a ticket?"

Getting blinged up, putting on a bit of fake sportswear and expressing dubious social attitudes, sounds a right lark.

Not everyone is amused, though, it seems. English student Gina Murfin lodged a formal complaint, saying the event was "so blatantly classist and distasteful it's difficult to know even know where to begin."

She also accused her fellow students of "making fun of a demonised and marginalised area of society." Not one for overdoing the hyperbole then?

A few things spring to mind. First of all, what has it got to do with class? Moreover, don't you need to possess a certain amount of money to truly embrace chav culture?

For example, all that gold jewellery doesn't come cheap, particularly the way the commodities markets have gone over the past decade. And quaffing all that strong lager, have they not seen alcohol duty lately? And that's before we get to the sugar tax. Former lottery winner Mickey Carroll styled himself King of Chavs, and he wasn't short of a bob or two.

Secondly, are chavs really a demonised and marginalised community? I would have thought the whole point of being a chav was that they are the ones doing the demonising and marginalising. I don't see blinged up louts as a vulnerable minority.

But more important than any of this, what is a "classist"? Look in the dictionary. There's no such word. And this girl's studying English.

□ □ □

WE seem to have lost a lot of much-loved figures over the past year or two, but the death of Likely Lads star Rodney Bewes seems particularly sad.

In his later years he was a regular performer in this area, and he didn't bother with an agent or public relations officer. If he was in town he would telephone himself, and politely ask if we could give him a bit of publicity. He would then turn up in an old Ford Mondeo, with his scenery strapped to the roof rack or on a trailer.

He was saddened by his rift with co-star James Bolam, particularly the fact that Bolam distanced himself from The Likely Lads, seemingly believing it would harm his reputation as a serious actor.

Which is rather a shame. Because I can't help but think that 20, 30 or 40 years from now, The Likely Lads will be remembered much more fondly than New Tricks.

## Soaring population: Time the Government got a grip



Jo Brand – reality telly at its most heart-tugging where stars are felines



Sajid Javid – claims that baby boomers are "living in a different world"



Biologist Sally Le Page – surprised at use of a divining rod to find a water main

# No, baby boomers are not to blame

SO it's all our fault. Somehow I guessed that the housing shortage would eventually be blamed on us of the privileged, pampered post-war generation. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid says we baby boomers are "living in a different world" when we dare to question the need for millions more houses to be built. Really? Or maybe we live in the sort of world where, when a country's population has soared from 50 million to 70 million in a single lifetime and is growing at 500,000 a year, we expect the Government to get a grip. Most of Britain's social, housing and transport problems are the direct result of our soaring population – and yet the Government has no population policy. The problem is not selfish pensioners. It is stupid politicians.

DON'T believe anyone who claims to understand the Budget on Budget Day. All the little nasties are hidden away in something called the Red Book and will probably come to light a few days later, maybe at about the time you are reading this. It's that oh, \*\*\*\* moment.

IN this age of impersonal, soulless banking, I loved the tale from a reader whose little garage business was struggling some years ago. He went to his bank manager for a small loan and explained his cash-flow problem. The manager opened his drawer and tossed his car keys to him with the words: "I've got a new car on order. Sell this one for me and take a cut for yourself." No loan, no interest, no paperwork. Just fond memories of a simpler and more humane age.

TELLY has ticked all the schmaltz boxes and flicked all the weepy switches with Jo Brand's Cats & Kittens (C5). This is reality telly at its most heart-tugging where the stars are felines,

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the plot is all about horrible injuries and miraculous recoveries, and the presenter is that plump lass everybody loves. The icing on this extremely sugary cake is that it's set in Britain's most sentimental city, Liverpool. Having put all the aah-factor ingredients together so well, where does C5 go next? I had a brilliant idea about fluffy little orphaned baby hamsters being taught to sing Christmas carols by Aled Jones. What could possibly go wrong?

SALLY Le Page, described as "an evolutionary biologist at the University of Oxford and an award-winning science communicator and YouTuber," was surprised to hear that two Severn Trent workers were using a divining rod as they tried to find a water main near her parents' home. She has duly tweeted against this "mediaeval" practice and is "astonished" to discover that other water companies use the same techniques. Frankly, I'm astonished that she's astonished. Isn't it well known that water companies and many private citizens use divining? Over the years it has been reported in many TV and newspaper features. How can anyone become an evolutionary biologist at Oxford without knowing such things?

I HAVE a friend who is a dowser. I can't produce any scientifically acceptable proof that it works, but he makes a reasonable living at it, which suggests he has a fair success rate. I once had a go with his divining kit and, as a fully paid-up sceptic, was surprised at the "pull"

on the L-shaped rods swivelling in biro tubes. It could have been self-delusion or I may have stumbled upon an underground stream, who knows? But if I were a Severn-Trent worker with a van stuffed full of hi-tech leak-detection devices which do not always work perfectly (because that's how real life goes), I might be tempted to carry divining rods, just as back-up. Where's the harm and what's the problem?

ONE Guardian website reader put it admirably: "When did science become so shrill and intolerant? " I bet the answer is when science took over from religion. They both have their inquisitions.

OUT of a chilly, windy day and into the warmth of the hairdresser's where the clippers (number three all over, since you ask) are soon humming merrily against my skull. I ask the hairdresser whether any customer has ever fallen asleep. 'Happens all the time,' she says. 'It's very therapeutic.' Offhand, I can't think of any other therapy that costs a fiver for ten minutes.

IT was the hairdresser who pointed out that, no matter how dark and gloomy the days are, the winter solstice is only four weeks away. One of the strange things about our calendar is how early midsummer and midwinter fall. Spring? It's just beyond that black cloud . . .

AND I have no idea what happened to September's confident predictions that Britain could suffer six named storms before Christmas. We have seen only two and one of those was a damp squib. Either we are in for a truly horrendous December or this is yet further proof that trying to forecast the weather more than a week ahead is a mug's game.

## TALKING POINT



# No-one is immune to falling on hard times

FOOD banks are used by scroungers and asylum seekers and are magnets for those just looking for free food – according, sadly, to outspoken and somewhat deluded opponents of the facility.

And while many of us may shake our heads at such insensitive and ill-conceived ideas it is probably fair to say we don't really know who does use food banks, but don't think it's people like us.

What wishful thinking to believe it won't happen to us, that we are unlikely to have to turn to food banks for help. In truth it could happen to anyone – and for a number of reasons.

A study from researchers at Oxford University and King's College London, looking at those who use the Trussell Trust network of food banks – which has given out 586,907 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis in first half of this year – found five out of six people were out of work and one in five had slept rough in recent months.

Ill health was common, while half of households using the food banks included someone with a disability and a third had mental health problems.

Eighty-seven per cent were born in the UK and four per cent had a degree – with the heavy debt of student loans hanging over their heads too. It's fair to say that the vast majority of those using food banks were on low incomes and more adversely affected by life changes.

However, any one of us could find ourselves out of work. Bad health is indiscriminate or we could suffer an injury and be left unable to work. What about those whose lives are turned upside down by divorce or family tragedy?

Latest figures are quite clear too that delays in making payments to people legitimately entitled to benefits under the controversial Universal Credit payments system have caused misery. Referrals to the trust in the first six months of the year were up by 13 per cent to 587,000 people, including 209,000 children.

One family from Hedgesford recently donated £250 to the local food bank. Their reason? Both the mother, who was a nurse, and the father, a headteacher, had relied on such charity in the past.

No-one is immune to hard times and changing circumstances. Donate now to support those in need of a helping hand – just as you would hope the community would support you should the cruel finger of fate strike at any time.

I The Express & Star and Chronicle is running a Feed A Family This Christmas appeal in support of food banks and the homeless. Visit <https://www.expressand-star.com/news/feed-a-family/>

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# I don't recall a golden age

RESPONSE to Mrs CA Harris: I voted to remain in the EU whilst recognising that the organisation did require change. However, I accept the majority vote to leave. Mrs CA Harris talks about experiencing a 'golden age'. I was born in the 1940s and can not recall such a period in my life time.

Societies change and people have to be adaptable to the forces of change rather than continually look back. Implicitly Mrs Harris seems to blame the EU for the demise of the "golden age" and lack of hope for our youth.

Quite where the causal link is Mrs

Harris fails to explain although Germany seems to get some blame.

Mrs Harris seems sceptical that by exiting the EU the UK is in for a difficult time. We have not left the EU and we will have to wait and see what deal, if any, can be done with the EU. It is after this point that we can see the true impact on the UK.

Those who complain about 'Remoaners' should acknowledge that in a democracy individuals are entitled to continue to press their view point.

KIRK NUNN  
Bloxwich

# Patients pay for their translators

I READ that Walsall Manor Hospital spent almost a third of a million pounds last year on translators.

Whilst on holiday recently in Spain I had to visit a hospital. There was a sign at the check-in which said: "If you do not speak Spanish then please bring an interpreter with you." Then before any triage or treatment was started, I had to supply my passport, address where I was staying, my home address etc. Why can't our hospitals do the same?

Fred Lees  
GREAT WYRLEY

# Leave and remain: the difference

SO Peter Rhodes failed his maths 'O' level three times and is telling me that my remain vote is all wrong.

From 11 I did a morning and evening paper round and every holiday I worked on whatever farm would employ me to get money to buy school uniform and help out the family.

I often did homework by candlelight. I scraped through seven mock 'O' levels but was only expected to pass the main art exam. The Easter holiday before the exams my mother told me not to work so I could revise.

I went through my maths textbook working everything out from scratch. I learnt the whole of my French/English and Latin/English dictionaries and scores of pages in my geography textbook off by heart.

I passed six 'O' levels including maths, the only one I didn't pass was art. That is the difference between 'remainers' and 'leavers'.

ROGER WATTS  
Walsall

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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## EMAIL

[walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk)

# Depot postal staff most hard working

AT Kings Hill Royal Mail depot in Wednesbury, we have some of the most dedicated and hard working staff anyone could meet. Over the festive season the teams will work overtime to ensure the best delivery service is fully operational on our behalf at such a hectic time of year.

However, we know the service is now privatised, with shareholders awarded a £65 million dividend from profits we all contributed to achieving. Funnily enough the price of stamps has never come down?

CWU postal workers voted to take strike action should their current campaign for a pay rise break down.

For me I would like to record my support of the postal workers and all their work over the year and extra efforts during the Festive Season.

CLLR DOUG JAMES  
Walsall

# Capable of making up own mind

I NOTED there is much opposition to the negative misinformation presented by the media and political commentators.

None of these people will generate any meaningful business or work that will generate a brighter future for this country when we leave the EU. I am fed up with political correspondents trying to thrust their opinion on us. I have been on this planet long enough to be able to make up my own mind.

More to the point, they are no wiser than you or I and do not know the outcome of the Brexit negotiations - they are just making wild guesses.

The people that will make this country able to stand on its own two feet will be the entrepreneurs, manufacturers, businessmen, salesmen, deal-makers, farmers and the go-getters, people prepared to do something with a positive attitude.

ALAN DAVIS  
Darlaston

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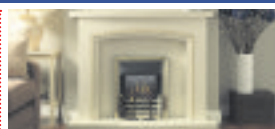


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# Jobs under threat as council tax set to rise

**MULTI-MILLION pound cuts and job losses are on the horizon in Walsall with council tax poised to go up by nearly five per cent.**

Walsall Council has identified £12.4 million worth of cuts as part of its draft budget proposals.

Cost-cutting plans include slashing spending on Clean and Green services, which handles fly-tipping, by £231,000.

Another £193,000 could be cut from children's services, taking the total proposed reductions in that area to £2.4m. Adult social care is also set to see the axe fall to the tune of £4.7m.

## Spending

The authority has stated the savings will have 'significant' implications on staffing including compulsory redundancies which will be 'minimised' where possible.

It is proposed that council tax will increase by 4.99 per cent from April, with three per cent ring-fenced for social care spending. It went up 3.99 per cent this year.

Tory opposition leader Councillor Mike Bird said: "I have doubts over the savings being quoted for children's services and adult

## By Carl Jackson

social care. I just can't see where those savings are going to come from.

"It is a demand-led service so to say you are going to make these massive savings in my view is not achievable."

He added: "In real terms what we are looking at is a decrease in services. All in all it is a grim situation."

Deputy leader Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "Our four-year financial plan has been designed around helping us to deliver our corporate priorities despite the challenges caused by ever decreasing funding from government, an increase in the numbers of looked after children and a growing ageing population."

# Tawny owl in hot water over rescue



**The injured owl is on the mend after being treated with steam from a kettle**

A STRICKEN owl was rescued by firefighters after being found hanging more than 30ft up a tree tangled up in a fishing line.

The bird was spotted struggling to get free of the discarded line by a passer-by who raised the alarm. The tawny owl is on the mend after being treated with steam from a kettle, which helps the damaged feathers to naturally repair back together.

Fire crews called to the incident in Green Lane in Walsall requested the assistance of the RSPCA.

The charity's animal collection officer Cat Strawford said: "He was first spotted by a member of the public at 8.30am that morning. As owls are nocturnal it is likely he'd got tangled the night before."

The owl had damage to feathers on his left wing and was taken to the RSPCA's Stapeley Grange wildlife centre in Nantwich, Cheshire, to be treated.

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# HomeServe wraps up £54 million takeover

## Rare car under hammer



The 1965 Porsche going up for auction this weekend

AN exceptionally rare sports car bought new for a few thousand pounds 52 years ago is likely to fetch around £200,000 at auction this weekend.

A previous owner, named as a W Kendrick of Walsall, paid a comparatively modest sum by today's standards for the 1965 Porsche 911 'SWB' Coupe back in the 1960s, at a time when the average wage was only £19 a week.

Half a century on, the car's value has rocketed. The Walsall Porsche is valuable because it was only the second UK-supplied Porsche 911, which makes it, according to London auctioneers Bonhams, 'an ultra-rare right-hand drive model' and 'a much sought after First Series Model'. The car was built in

July 1965, with the bulk of production going to America. So this model is rarer still by being an original right-hand drive car.

A spokesman for Bonhams said: "Extensive research has failed to uncover the whereabouts of the first UK-supplied Porsche 911 SWB Coupe, making this car possibly the earliest customer-delivered 911 still in existence."

A Porsche historian has confirmed that the car is genuine. When W Kendrick took delivery in 1965, a gallon of petrol cost 5s 2d, about 26p in modern money.

The 1965 Porsche 911 is expected to sell for between £170,000 and £200,000 at Bonhams in London when it goes up for auction on Saturday.

HOMESERVE revealed it has completed its takeover of Checkatrade in a £54 million deal.

It comes as the Walsall-based home repairs, insurance and improvements business announced fresh growth at home and abroad.

Revenue in the first six months of the year rose 16 per cent to £366m. It attracted more customers across the UK, US and Europe and said its expectations for strong full-year growth remained on track.

The company, which employs around 1,100 at its Green Lane HQ, has also spent £54m to buy the remaining 60 per cent of trades website Checkatrade it did not already own after a deal in February.

Statutory operating profit rose 12 per cent to £27.5m, including a £1.7m favourable foreign exchange movement, as the group continued to invest in its marketing and growth initiatives and completed more repairs for customers.

### Progress

Statutory pre-tax profit was £21.2m, down five per cent from £22.2m a year ago, due to an increase in interest and other charges as a result of investments and acquisitions. Founder and chief executive Richard Harpin said: "I am delighted with the progress we made across our business in the first six months of this financial year."

"I am excited by the potential for HomeServe to become a global online home repairs and improvements platform, delivered via Checkatrade and Habitissimo where we already have a majority holding."

"The announcement that we are buying the remaining 60 per cent of Checkatrade brings the realisation of this vision substantially closer."

"Checkatrade is the market leader in the UK, and delivers a first class customer experience."

HomeServe has now expanded to 7.8 million customers in the UK, North America, France, Spain and Italy, offering a range of water, heating and electrical assistance and products.

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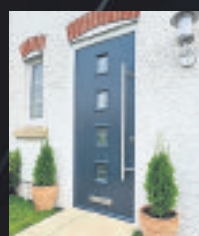
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## Taxi firm driving forward with new base

A GROWING West Midlands-based taxi firm is continuing its expansion by opening a new office in Willenhall.

Go Carz will operate from an office at West Midlands House in Gypsy Lane.

Director Cindy Wilday said: "We are really pleased to be opening an office in Willenhall. We have wanted to have an office in Willenhall for some time because we spotted a gap in the market here, and it feels like a real coup to have pulled it off."

Go Carz has hundreds of drivers on its books with more than 100 available in Willenhall. Contact Go Carz on 01902 717273, visit [www.gocarz.co.uk](http://www.gocarz.co.uk) or visit the office in Gypsy Lane.



Go Carz director Cindy Wilday, outside the site in Gypsy Lane, Willenhall

# £13k spent by council in pothole payments

**POTHOLE-DAMAGED vehicles have cost Sandwell Council more than £13,000 over the last two years, new figures have revealed.**

There were 37 successful claims lodged by irate drivers who were left with damaged to their cars caused by crumbling roads in the borough.

The authority was forced to give those motorists a payout after it was accepted damage to vehicles was caused by road conditions.

But the number of successful claims has fallen in the last two years. The

council put the reduction down to its pothole teams responding to road damage and carrying out repairs more quickly.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act showed there were a total of 118 compensation claims made to Sandwell Council for vehicle damage between 2015 and 2017.

If all had been upheld, the council would have faced paying out more than £50,000. However, the authority ended up paying a total of £13,682 after 81 claims were thrown out. The amount has fallen dramatically over the last two years. In 2011/12, the council paid out £563,921 in pothole damage compensation.

But the amount has gradually fallen ever since.

The council has embarked on a pothole purge in recent years following complaints about the state of the road. Bosses believe the fall in compensation claims reflects and improvement in the quality of road surfaces across the borough.

Milder winters are also believed to have helped lower the number of claims.

Councillor David Hosell, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "We have seen a reduction in the number of claims for damage to vehicles caused by potholes over the past few years."

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# Town rocked by death may host Knife Angel



From left, John Morris area manager for Walsall Council, Police Youth Officer Simon Bradley and Sgt Leigh Hale

## A SCULPTURE made of confiscated or surrendered blades could make its way to Walsall.

It follows the death of Reagan Asbury, aged 19, who was stabbed in the neck in an incident at a boxing match at the town hall in October.

A delegation visited the British Ironwork Centre, near Oswestry, to kick-start inquiries over whether it could take The Knife Angel to the town.

Created by sculptor Alfie Bradley, the sculpture has become known as a monument against violence and aggression. West Midlands police officers Walsall Youth Officer Simon Bradley and Sergeant Leigh Hale,

along with John Morris, area manager for Walsall Council, met with Clive Knowles, the centre's chairman, to discuss the prospects of the monument visiting Walsall's Art Gallery.

Mr Knowles said: "The discussions were positive and the group has returned to the West Midlands to talk to the recently appointed chief executive of Walsall Council Dr Helen Paterson.

"Whilst knife crime is generally low in Walsall, the delegation believed the monument would be the perfect vision for young people to see and for the greater national blight to be illustrated to them, through this unique piece of art."

He said a number of cities had expressed an interest in hosting the statue.



Reagan Asbury

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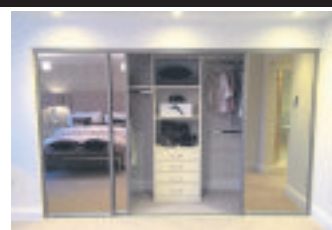
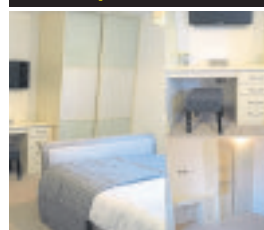


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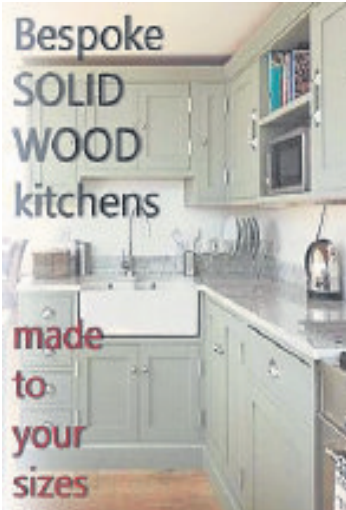
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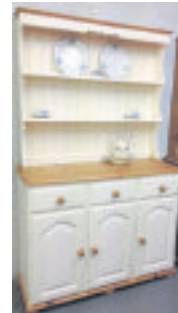
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## Linda's birthday bonus as honour is received

**"IT was definitely a birthday to remember."**

That is how Linda Clark summed up marking her 67th birthday with a trip to Buckingham Palace to pick up her MBE.

Miss Clark, from Walsall, was presented with her honour by the Duke of Cambridge.

She has been rewarded for voluntary work including three decades of service as a magistrate and her efforts with charities. And she said she certainly never forget celebrating her 67th birthday at the palace.

It was actually her second trip to the royal residence, five years after her husband Phillip Holmes received an MBE in 2012.

Miss Clark, who lives in the Orchard Hills Estate, in Walsall, said: "It was an amazing day, it really was. I have been to the palace before, when my husband received his award five years ago."

### Special

"I knew what to expect but it was extra special because it was my birthday as well – it was definitely a birthday to remember."

"I think I'll struggle to better that one. The Duke of Cambridge was really nice. He wanted to know what volunteering I had done."

During her three decades as a magistrate, Miss Clark has presided over thousands of cases at courts across the Black Country.

In fact, she met her husband – a fellow magistrate – on the bench.

The retired BT worker has made the most of her spare time, also volunteering with the Kissing It Better charity, which takes dogs into hospitals to support children undergoing procedures and their families. Miss Clark has also worked at the Staffordshire Regiment



Duke of Cambridge presents the honour to Miss Clark



Miss Clark, husband Phil Holmes and dogs Sophie and Maisie, at home in Walsall

Museum on a voluntary basis for the last 25 years and is a school governor at Shepwell School, near Walsall's Manor Hospital.

Miss Clark said: "It's wonderful to think you can do these things to help other people. It really is nice to be in a position to help others."

Kissing It Better has two therapy dogs who go into the children's wards and prove a distraction for children undergoing procedures or operations.

Miss Clark said: "They are such a comfort for the children, staff and parents. It can prove particularly difficult

for the parents when their children are in hospital."

Dog lover Miss Clark also helps to look after retired West Midlands Police dogs along with Mr Holmes, a former deputy headteacher, who was awarded the MBE for services to the community in 2012.

Mr Holmes began his teaching career at the old TP Riley School in Bloxwich, and was deputy head at Wood Green, Wednesbury, for 21 years. He became a JP in 1986 and then chairman of the bench in Walsall before stepping down in 2010.

## WALSALL TARMACADAM LTD



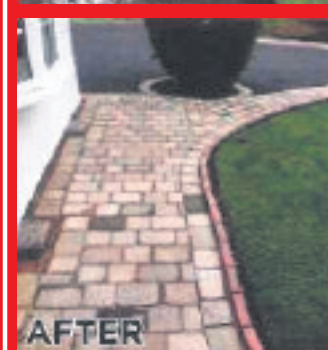
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## Road blocked off as rubbish dumped



Gravelly Lane in Stonnall, near Walsall, was left completely blocked off because of the fly-tipping

A LARGE pile of rubbish, including a shed roof, was dumped in a country lane, completely blocking off the route. The heap was removed from Gravelly Lane in Stonnall, near Walsall, by Lichfield District Council workers.

A door, insulation, plaster and fibre-board were also among the pile. It is suspected it was dumped there by a rogue builder or someone paid to collect the rubbish and avoided disposing of it at a registered site.

Councillor Iain Eadie, responsible for operational services, leisure and waste, said: "The person who fly-tipped this rubbish has committed a criminal offence."

"We suspect it was left by either an unscrupulous builder or an individual or company that took money to dispose of the rubbish at a registered site, but dumped it instead."

"The penalty for fly-tipping can be a large fine and even a significant prison term, but we can only prosecute if we find the person or company responsible. It's also important to remember that we all have a duty of care when employing others to dispose of our waste."

## Company director in £189,000 fraud jailed

A CROOKED businessman who cheated creditors of his failing company out of £189,000 has been jailed.

Guljinder Singh was the sole director of Goldline Express Ltd, which had a registered office in Fryers Road, Bloxwich, and provided agency staff for shelf stacking jobs and farm labour.

The firm had its bank account frozen by a restraint order on April 8, 2009, and ceased trading on May 2 owing over £225,000. But shameless Singh, aged 50, siphoned off most of Goldline's money while knowing it should have gone towards settling debts, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He withdrew £189,000 with 11 cheques made out for cash in his name between June 1 and August 7, 2011, after the company account was freed up as it prepared to be wound up. He deliberately left £942 untouched in the hope it would make the move look less suspicious, the court heard.

The defendant claimed around £95,000 of the money was repaid to family

and friends who had allegedly loaned cash to him two years earlier to help him pay wages. Judge Barry Berlin rejected the evidence of several of those alleged to have made the loans.

The judge said the workers' payments were likely to have come from another, secret bank account linked to Singh, of Enderby Road, Penn. Singh, who had two previous convictions for motoring offences, pleaded guilty to fraudulently removing money from Goldline's bank account and was jailed for two years eight months and banned from being a company director for 10 years.

Report by John Scott

OPENS FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2017

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# Masters of trades are an inspiration to all



Masters of their craft – Donna Welling and Alfonso Urso, of Alfonso & Sons Ice Cream in Willenhall, at a special reception

**A WEALTH** of talent in the form of award-winning authors, designers, green-fingered gardeners and inspiring athletes was put on display at a unique event.

The Black Country's best were celebrated at the 100 Masters one-day pop-up festival in the heart of Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Stars such as Sathnam Sanghera, Ellie Simmonds, Hugh Porter and The Fizzogs were among the list of those honoured at the event.

Taking place at Starworks Warehouse, in Frederick Street, the day offered visitors a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the work of 100 different Black Country creators.

Kerry O'Coy, who was behind the Creative Black Country initiative,



said: "The campaign started around 18 months ago and we started to ask for names of people brilliant in what they do. We had hundreds of nominations and then commissioned artists to represent them in a variety of different ways. It is incredibly diverse."

"The masters range from those inter-

nationally recognised to those who are little-known, such as a shop owner from Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton author Sathnam spoke about the BBC adaptation of his book *The Boy With The Top Knot* and growing up in the city, while music came courtesy of Conrad Gail's choir.

Hugh Porter, who was recognised as one of the nine sporting masters, said: "As a proud Black Country boy this is a fantastic honour."

Eighty-year-old printer John Neave displayed a selection of his original works and spoke about how technology has still not put him out of business.

One of the masters in gardening, 'Cactus' Stan Griffin, from West Bromwich, displayed some of his greatest home-grown cacti. The shortlisted Masters were chosen via a panel selection process and came from a dazzling breadth of backgrounds, ages and areas of the region. For details, please go to the website [100masters.co.uk](http://100masters.co.uk)

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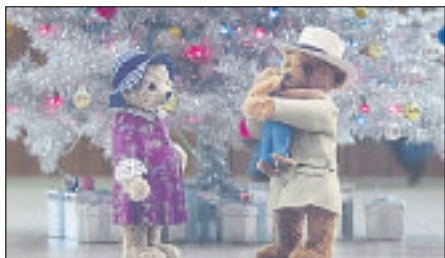
# Edward bears all in airport's festive advert

A BEAR from the Black Country has returned to TV screens for Heathrow Airport's second Christmas advert. The advert shows how Doris and Edward Bair met in the 1960s while travelling through the busy airport.

Forgetful Edward leaves his hat on a plane but air stewardess Doris notices and chases after him and he is reunited with his headwear. It celebrates the old fashioned, romantic view of air travel that is a far cry from today's budget airlines. The advert covers Edward and Doris's long distance relationship through the decades.



Edward Bair, in the 1960s, with Doris after finding his hat



Reunited, Edward returns from a flight, with Doris

Beginning in the 1960s, it goes on to show them welcoming little bears through the years and witnessing their family grow.

At the end of the commercial, Edward is travelling alone, and can be seen looking at his wedding photo.

He strolls through the airport by himself and is finally reunited with his whole family - including Doris.

The advert ends with the bears turning into humans. Heathrow's first Christmas advert last year revealed via a snapshot of his passport that Edward was born in Walsall in 1944.

## Lovable

The airport's commercial director Ross Baker said: "After an overwhelming response across the globe to Doris and Edward last year, we had to bring these lovable bears back to our screens. We hear from our passengers there is no greater feeling than being wrapped in the arms of a loved one at Christmas. We wanted the advert to capture this unique feeling and make people feel even more excited to welcome friends and family this festive season."

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## Pleased to help – oh yes we are!



Supporters – Jack and the Beanstalk panto stars Adam C Booth and Ian Adams visit the newspaper offices

A HOST of stars have come out in support of our Feed A Family This Christmas food banks appeal with readers rallying to help the cause.

Superstar boy band The Vamps were among the big names to back the appeal and urge readers and communities to donate items.

Singer James McVey, who was at the Merry Hill centre for the Christmas lights switch-on, said: "It is a great idea and a good cause."

And panto stars Ian Adams and Adam C Booth stopped off at the Express & Star and Chronicle offices in Wolverhampton before switching on the city's Christmas lights to offer their support to the campaign.

Ian, who plays Dame Trott and Adam who is Simple Simon in Jack and the Beanstalk at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, also appealed for more donations. Their fellow panto star Lisa Riley helped launch the appeal and support has also come from such names as Slade legend Dave Hill,

#### THE DROP-OFF POINTS:

Express & Star Wolverhampton, 51-53 Queen Street, WV1 1ES; Express & Star Cannock/Walsall office, Queen Square, Cannock WS11 1EA; Oldbury office, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2DG.

#### DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE DROPPED OFF AT:

Waitrose Wolverhampton, Penn Road, WV2 4NU; The Midcounties Co-operative Food Store Codsall, 28-32 Wood Lane/Bakers Way, Codsall WV8 1DB. Donations dropped off at those will go to The Well.



auctioneer Will Farmer and Olympian Joe Clarke. Meanwhile a kind-hearted Cannock market trader has offered to collect food and other items.

Anne Franks sells a variety of goods for a different charity each week on her pop-up stall at Cannock Indoor Market and has offered to use the stall to collect for Feed A Family.

The stall is adjacent to the Market Cafe. Items can be donated every Friday and Saturday until the end of the campaign on December 16.

The campaign aims to help the homeless, those who need the support of food banks and women helped by The Haven refuge in Wolverhampton.

The non-perishable food will be handed to food banks and other charitable organisations across the Black Country and Staffordshire. Readers can donate festive food, and basics including canned goods, long-life milk, fruit juice, rice and non-food items, toiletries, baby supplies, new socks and small presents are also welcome.

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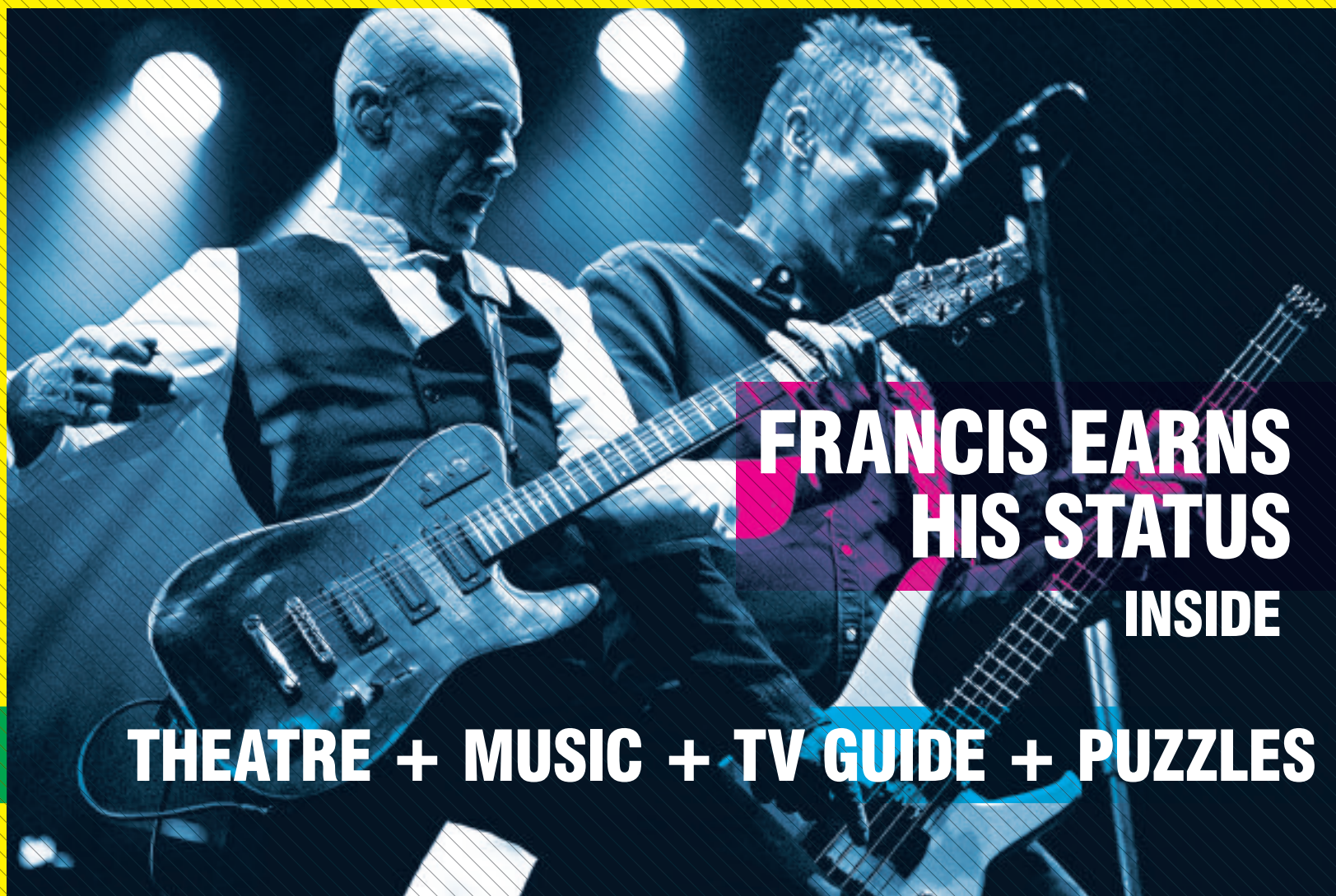
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# Francis: It's not the same without Rick

**T**here's only one place to start: the death of his bandmate of 50 years, Rick Parfitt. Francis doesn't mind. He knows he's got to talk about it, that Status Quo will forever be him and Rick, that their stories and history are forever linked.

And though he's chipper about being back on the road with Quo – they play Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on Sunday – he's dutiful and respectful on the subject of his late, great bandmate.

"It's been a challenging time and it's been confusing." Rick's place has been taken by Richie Malone, the band's new touring guitarist. He's had a profound effect. Francis says: "If you'd have said to me this young fella will make a lot of difference to the way the band feels and plays, I'd have said don't talk rubbish. People said it was all over and we weren't doing any more show. But things change. I didn't expect it to happen. We're enjoying the shows immensely. We've just got back from Australia and Dubai and apart from the jet lag that's been great."

"I'm looking forward to it all. I really did not expect to be in this position or feeling this way."

He realises he'll get stick from diehard Quo fans, that they'll resent him for moving on and not forever wearing black.

"I understand if people are thinking I'm a schmuck. But I don't want to apologise about feeling good about the band. I don't know why it's so good: maybe it's because there's something to prove. It's not the same as it was with Rick, it's just different. There's a certain vibe within the band."

"Maybe we'd become complacent. Rick's health issues were going on for a few years and that made things difficult. Perhaps that happens to all older bands."

He's conscious of growing older, of entering the autumn of his career. But he's proud to be on the road at the age of 68. He's still got the moves, still got the voice and still loves playing the songs that have stood the test of time.

"It all moves on. The Stones were once the most rebellious band in the world and now they're 75. They've survived."

"I'm sixty-bl\*\*y-eight. But something else is going on. You can tell I'm chipper. My manager is in the desert somewhere. But when I speak with him I'm la la la."

"We're not sure what's next. We may do another rock album, which I said I would never do. This business is great at making you go the other way. You say you're not going to do this and that. As we get older, we're worried about dribbling, but we go back to being the young person we were. That insecure little show-off in me is trying to prove something."

"I look forward to the gigs much more. That makes me question was I not looking forward to them before. It's not the same without Rick. It can't be."

His memories of Rick's passing are vivid. "It started in Turkey. As much as he died on Christmas Eve, really, he died in front of us in Turkey. He was on the floor and the medics told me he'd gone. I uncrossed his feet, they were crossed over. I watched what those people were doing to him. Our relationship was well documented. It was frosty sometimes but generally it was quite good. The PA who was with him saved him in Turkey."

"It was really quite horrible what the

Still rocking – Francis says performing is not the same without Rick



*My best friends in showbiz are people like Roy Wood and Jeff Lynne*

medical profession did to bring him round. He left the room dead but by the time we were back in London, he was sitting up and having a cup of tea. But then it was clear there was something that was wrong. That was when I thought 'Oh no'. So we got the new boy in. Rick said: 'If I kick the bucket, get him in'. We laughed about it, that was the relationship we had."

The relationship between Francis and Richie took a while to develop. At first, Francis was frosty with the incoming, looking at him as though to ask what he was doing standing in his partner's place? But the ice slowly melted and the band moved on.

"It happens. We die and everything carries on. I've lost two aunts and an uncle recently. As soon as I come out the funeral, I go to the studio and carry on. But the thought was difficult, carrying on. As I said, something happened. Some people think we shouldn't carry on, but we had to."

He is amused at the man that he's become. Once a hellraiser and firmly anti-establishment, these days he sports an OBE and spends time in the garden. "Getting the OBE was a huge honour. If I'm really honest, I don't feel people like us deserve it. I think the midwife in Leeds does but not us. But we maintain the profile of the honours system. No one really is going to ask the nurse or the milkman what they think –

they don't get the media attention. The fact that Rick and I and various others in our business get them helps to raise the profile of the honours system."

He's unsure what the future holds. There may be more records and more tours, though they may take time out in 2018 to reassess and consider where they're going. If they do tour again, the Black Country and Birmingham will be high on their list of places to visit.

"I've said this before but my best friends in showbusiness are people like Roy Wood, Jeff Lynne, Robert Plant and a truck driver whose name I'm not going to tell you – and they're all from your neck of the woods. Everybody I know from the area is fabulous, genuine. There's also a couple of rasta guys who do the NEC. I see them occasionally, any of those people I meet, it's like it was only yesterday that we saw each other. I might not see them for years, but I consider them friends. I feel comfortable around your lot."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

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Steps – new music after 17 years



## Steps into the future with new album and party tour

It's been 20 years since Steps released their disco-tastic debut – and now they're back to celebrate with a big pop party at Arena Birmingham tomorrow (Friday).

Lisa Scott-Lee and Claire Richards are trying to work out who the Chancellor of the Exchequer was when they formed, 20 years ago, in 1997. A giggling Ian 'H' Watkins, sat behind them, tickles them. Swatting him away, Claire correctly answers 'Gordon Brown' to the delight of her bandmates, who fall about laughing at H's antics.

It's just one sign of the affinity retained by the group, who split acrimoniously at the turn of the millennium, when Claire and H wanted to form a duo. Since then things have been patched up, and the band reformed in 2011 for a Sky Living series and a string of concerts.

Now, more than five years on, with the exception of 39-year-old Claire, they have all celebrated their 40th birthdays, but that does little to deter their energy.

The five, completed by Lee Latchford-Evans and Faye Tozer, are delighted at the success of their first album proper in 17 years, *Tears On The Dancefloor*, and single *Scared Of The Dark*. They listened to that song's first play on the radio together – almost 20 years to the day after they gathered to hear their debut, 5, 6, 7, 8.

"It felt like we had started all over again," reflects H. "New music the key for us to have a new energy with Steps," says Faye, "because we couldn't have asked the fans to come and see us again with just the old songs. I think it has breathed new life into us."

The *Party On The Dancefloor* tour also goes to the Genting Arena on December 9.

## Strictly star Joanne is back in a flash



Flashdance The Musical returns to the UK for the first time since 2011, starring Strictly Come Dancing favourite Joanne Clifton and pop star Ben Adams, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, December 9.

Strictly champion Joanne won both the main Strictly glitter ball, with Ore Oduba last year, and the Christmas Special in 2015 with Harry Judd.

Joanne made her musical theatre debut in Irving Berlin musical *Face The Music*, for which she was nominated for an award. She followed this up as Marilyn Monroe in the *Norma Jeane The*

Musical and then trod the boards as Millie Dillmount in the UK Tour of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Of her role as Alex Owens in the UK Tour of *Flashdance*, Joanne said: "This is just another dream come true. I think everyone in the world, whether dancer or non-dancer, as soon as they hear *What a Feeling*, remember that iconic scene at the end of the film and I'm so incredibly lucky that I get to do that every night in a UK tour. I can once again sing and act alongside dancing."

Ben who will join Joanne on stage as Nick Hurley, at 16 became the lead singer of the band a1, who

racked up 10 million record sales, including two UK number ones. He is now a successful songwriter, producer and actor. He also reached the final of *Celebrity Big Brother*.

Of taking to the stage in *Flashdance*, he says: "It's amazing to be part of such an iconic story, and as an 80's child I was brought up on this music."

*Flashdance The Musical* is based on the hit movie and tells the story of Alex, a welder by day and 'flashdancer' by night, who will not give up on her dream of becoming a professional dancer.

## Prankster Lee is a Serious Joker

The Prime Minister's least favourite comedian is at Dudley Town Hall tomorrow night (Friday). Prankster Lee Nelson caused a sensation at the Conservative Party Conference when he approached Theresa May during her speech and handed her a mock P45, claiming it was on behalf of Boris Johnson. Lee Nelson, real name Simon Brodtkin, brings his *Serious Joker* tour to the Black Country, with his new suited and booted look after ditching the baseball cap and sportswear.



## JAWS are ready to bite your Brum again

They impressed with their set at the Beyond The Tracks Festival earlier this year, and now Birmingham dream pop trio JAWS are giving home town fans another chance to see them live.

The former Halesowen College students are closing their tour with a set of swirling guitar rock at Digbeth's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday), with Leeds indie outfit Marsicans and London band Social Contract.

JAWS are Connor Schofield on vocals and guitar, Alex Hudson on guitars and Eddy Geach on drums. A year ago they released their second album *Simplicity*, the follow up to 2014 debut *Be Slowly*.

Also tomorrow, The Charlatans are at Wolverhampton Civic Hall while Good Charlotte play the O2 Academy. Then the Academy hosts *Scouting For Girls* on Saturday, with Gorillaz at the Birmingham Arena.

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CHOICE



Julie Walters

**Coastal Railways with Julie Walters (Channel 4, 8pm)**  
The actress and national treasure's second journey takes her from Newcastle upon Tyne to Edinburgh by high-speed train. Along the way, she stops off at the picturesque coastal village of Alnmouth, nicknamed the Tobermory of Northumberland. Here, Julie discovers where the phrase Keep Calm and Carry On originated, at a bookshop in the village, before visiting the world's biggest gannet colony - Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth. Next, she goes out to sea with a lobster breeder, and when she reaches her final destination, the Scottish capital, she discovers the connection between the railway and the world-famous Balmoral Hotel.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Stefanie Reed. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News. Weather. **12.30** Flog It! (R) **12.50** Mary Berry's Country House Secrets. (R) **1.50** FA Cup Final Score. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.55** Blue Planet II. (R) **5.55** BBC News.  
**6.10** **Regional Programme.**  
**6.20** **Countryfile.** Helen Skelton and Sean Fletcher explore the Cleveland Way. Helen meets a group of marathon runners and a scout team who have taken responsibility for a stretch of the area, while Sean finds out about a local oral history project and joins a wildlife photographer documenting leaping salmon. Plus, Tom Heap reports on the impact of climate change and Adam Henson finds out how to become a farmer without owning a farm.  
**7.20** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winklerman reveal the results of the Musicals Week viewers' vote. Featuring music from Beverley Knight, Amber Riley and Cassidy Janson.  
**8.00** **Blue Planet II.** Footage of animals that live on the coast, including sea lions working in packs to hunt tuna in the shallows and moray eels that venture out of the water to seek out food on dry rocks. Puffins must brave predators to bring a mouthful of food back to their young and king penguins go without food for a month while they moult. Plus, footage of the bizarre Leaping Blenny, a fish that hates the water.  
**9.00** **Howards End.** Margaret resolves to uphold her engagement, while Helen leaves for Europe with no explanation. Henry proposes a plan to resolve the issues at Howards End. Last in the series.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** **Regional Programme.**  
**10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium.  
**11.30** **Ronny Chieng: International Student.**  
**11.55** **Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**12.00** BBC News.

BBC2

**7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.35** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Food & Drink. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the fifth day at the Barbican Centre in York.  
**6.00** **MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Manish Bhasin introduces action from the second round, as the remaining 40 lower league and non-league sides looked to move a step closer to a potentially lucrative and glamorous tie in the third round.  
**7.00** **Turkey with Simon Reeve.** In the second half of the journey, Simon travels along the Black Sea Coast to the capital of Ankara and the Northern Highlands, witnessing first hand the aftermath of fighting in Kurdish areas and meeting a conservationist attempting to preserve the region's brown bears. He then returns to Istanbul, where he takes part in a popular TV series set in the palace of the Ottoman Sultans. (R)  
**8.00** **Robot Wars.** Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the grand final, which features the biggest ever Robot Wars battle. One of the six places in the last round remains free, and to decide who gets it, all the contestants who came second or third in the past five episodes return to battle to the death. The winner in this Ten Robot Rumble will have to face the five episode winners through a series of group battles and knockout rounds before the final showdown to decide which machine will be crowned series champion. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that is surrounded by forests which provide cover for a number of armed militant groups.  
**10.00** **Snowfall.** Franklin discovers that it was Lenny who came after him, and is forced to fight back or lose everything. Lucia is powerless to stop Ramiro taking over everything she has created.  
**10.45** **Snowfall.** Franklin finds success comes at a price. Last in the series.  
**11.40** **Snooker: UK Championship.**  
**12.30** **Snooker: UK Championship Extra.**  
**2.30** **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) **3.30** **Holby City.** (R) **4.30** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Empires. (R) **7.05** Odeobods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Make It Pop. **9.00** Scrambled!: Wishcraft. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.25** Save Money: Good Food. (R) **12.00** Tipping Point. (R) **1.00** ITV News: Weather. **1.05** The X Factor: Live Final. (R) **3.10** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.05** How to Spend It: Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield. (R)  
**6.15** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.30** **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Greg Watt and Denise Lewis, Mark Pougatch and Gina Yashere answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.  
**7.25** **The X Factor: Live Final.** Dermot O'Leary introduces the climax of this year's talent contest. The results of last night's performance at Wembley Arena are in and one of the three finalists has been eliminated from the contest. The two remaining acts must give one final performance to impress the viewing public and the judges, before one of them is crowned as this year's winner. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.  
**10.30** **ITV News: Weather.**  
**10.45** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. Last in the series. (R)  
**11.45** **Car Crash Britain: Caught on Camera.** Road accidents and near-misses, including a woman who had a close shave when a car ploughed into her office, parallel parking calamities and a new driver with no beginners' luck. (R)  
**12.35** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** **3.50** **ITV News: Weather.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life. (R) **1.00** F1 2017: Hamilton's Record Breaking Season. **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** Film: Arthur Christmas. (2011) Animated comedy, with the voice of James McAvoy. **5.50** Film: Shrek. (2001) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers.  
**7.30** **Channel 4 News.**  
**8.00** **Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels from Newcastle to Edinburgh by high speed train. Along the way, she stops off at the coastal town of Alnmouth, discovers where the phrase Keep Calm and Carry On originated, visits the world's biggest gannet colony, and goes out to sea with a lobster breeder. When she reaches her destination, she discovers the connection between the railway and the famous Balmoral Hotel.  
**9.00** **Film: Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol.** (2011) Secret agent Ethan Hunt and his team are implicated in a bombing at the Kremlin, forcing the American president to declare them fugitives. The spies plan to clear their name by abducting the real terrorist, which leads them into a pursuit around the globe. However, Hunt cannot be sure his colleagues are trustworthy. Action adventure sequel, starring Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg and Paula Patton.  
**11.35** **Film: 1. Frankenstein.** (2014) The scientist's monster is caught up in a war between supernatural beings who want the secret of his immortality. Fantasy adventure, with Aaron Eckhart and Bill Nighy.  
**1.15** **Film: Morning Glory.** (2010) Comedy, starring Rachel McAdams. **3.00** Trump: An American Dream. A new wife, a hit TV show and the ultimate prize in world politics. Last in the series. (R) **3.55** Gillette World Sport. Including a profile of fixed-gear cyclist Patrick Seabase. **4.25** **KO TV Boxing Weekly.** **4.50** **Mobil 1** The Grid. (R) **5.20** Kristie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.35** Countdown. With Richard Madeley in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Brooming About. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Digby Dragon. **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **8.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.55** FIA Formula E. **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. **1.10** Film: Finding Father Christmas. (2016) **1.10** Film: The Christmas Secret. (2014) Drama, starring Bethany Joy Lenz. **2.55** Film: On the 12th Day of Christmas. (2015) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Brooke Nevill and Robin Dunne. **3.55** News Update. **4.00** Film: On the 12th Day of Christmas. (2015) Concluded.  
**4.45** Film: Northpole: Open for Christmas. (2015) Premiere. Festive fantasy sequel, starring Bailey Madison. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50** Film: Northpole: Open for Christmas. (2015) Concluded.  
**6.30** **Film: Call Me Claus.** (2001) A cynical female TV producer hires a man to play Santa Claus in a programme. He turns out to be the real Father Christmas, and has come on a special mission to melt her icy heart and persuade her to take over the reindeer reins as the new face of the festive season. Family drama, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Nigel Hawthorne, Brian Mitchell and Victor Garber.  
**8.15** **Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 10th round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Newcastle Falcons, Exeter Chiefs v Bath, and Harlequins v Saracens.  
**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00** **The Paul O'Grady Story.** Profile of the talk show host, exploring his formative years as a social worker and showbiz career appearing as both himself and his drag act alter ego Lily Savage. (R)  
**10.35** **When Reality TV Goes Horribly Wrong.** Vicky Pattison narrates a countdown of disastrous incidents on reality shows, featuring Nikki Graham, Bianca Gascoigne, Paul Danan and Jessie Cave.  
**1.30** **Lip Sync Battle UK.** Carol Vorderman v Martin Kemp. (R) **1.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in Blackpool. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys  
**7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Classic Quartets at the BBC **9.00** Natural World **10.40** Britain's Wild Places **11.00** Film: Taxi Tehran (2015) **12.20** Classic Quartets at the BBC **1.20** Natural World **3.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.25** Take Me Out **12.40** You've Been Framed! at Christmas **1.10** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **1.45** The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol **2.15** Film: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** Film: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011) **4.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.10** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.20** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.35** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Release the Hounds **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.30** FYI Daily **11.35** Film: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985) **12.40** Film: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot (1991) **2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.50** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Lewis **1.00** The Knock **3.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **4.50** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**11.30** Film: Superman (1978) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Superman (1978) **2.25** Film: The Dam Busters (1954) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30** Film: The Dam Busters (1954) **5.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **7.05** Film: Nacho Libre (2006) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: Nacho Libre (2006) **9.00** Film: The Dictator (2012) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Dictator (2012) **10.40** Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2 (2015) **11.40** FYI Daily **11.45** Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2 (2015) **12.30** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Film: Marmaduke (2010) **2.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Ted (2012) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Gogglebox **1.05** Rude Tube **2.10** First Dates **3.05** Rude Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**The Christmas Calendar, Channel 5, 3.45pm**  
Emily has just taken over her grandmother's failing bakery and discovers that if she doesn't attract enough customers by Christmas, she will lose it. Finding new customers proves tough, but when she receives a handmade Advent calendar from a secret admirer, the local residents become obsessed with finding out the identity of the sender. Festive romantic drama, starring Laura Bell Bundy. (2017)

**TUESDAY**  
**Call Me Claus, Channel 5, 3.40pm**  
A cynical female TV producer hires a man to play Santa Claus in a programme. He turns out to be the real Father Christmas, and has come on a special mission to melt her icy heart and persuade her to take over the reindeer reins as the new face of the festive season. Family drama, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Nigel Hawthorne and Victor Garber. (2001)



Brick Mansions, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Spirit of Christmas, Channel 5, 2pm**  
When brokering the sale of a haunted inn, a lawyer meets a charming ghost who lives there, and she ends up agreeing to help him discover the truth behind his death. Romantic drama, starring Jen Lilley and Thomas Beaudoin. (2015)

**THURSDAY**  
**Brick Mansions, Channel 5, 9pm**  
A ghetto of Detroit is walled off from the rest of the city to contain its criminal population. A cop out for revenge and an ex-convict trying to save his kidnapped girlfriend are forced to team up to stop a drug kingpin carrying out a plan that could destroy the entire city. US remake of French action adventure District 13, starring Paul Walker. (2014)

**FRIDAY**  
**Christmas Under Wraps, Channel 5, 3.45pm**  
When a doctor fails to get the position she wanted, she ends up moving to a remote Alaskan town and unexpectedly ends up finding love and happiness, and discovers that the small town is hiding a big holiday secret. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure, David O'Donnell and Robert Pine. (2014)

# Kirstie gets in the festive spirit in new one-off show

What started out as a pleasant diversion is turning into a national institution.

In 2009, Kirstie Allsopp – who was previously best known for her property expertise thanks to the show Location Location Location – fronted Kirstie's Handmade Home, in which she decorated her new Devon house with craft items she made herself.

The format has since widened to encompass Kirstie's Handmade Britain, Kirstie's Vintage Home, Fill Your House for Free, and several other shows, including this now annual festive series.

In the meantime, Allsopp is also the face of The Handmade Fair, which takes place every September at Hampton Court, and offers visitors an opportunity to meet makers and buy the materials needed to produce their own crafty products.

It's certainly a far cry from selling properties. In the years since her first dabble into the world of the handmade, crafts have really risen in popularity, with thousands across the country taking up knitting, crochet, sewing, baking, woodwork and more.

Did Allsopp's show and others along similar lines inspire folk, or did they reflect an already growing trend that began as the public attempted to find ways to save money in an uncertain economic climate? That's a topic still up for discussion, but whatever the answer, it seems that for the foreseeable future, crafts are here to stay.

For Allsopp, taking part in the programmes has turned a casual interest into a passion.

"I think it's always interested me, but I never thought I was capable of doing it," she says of the crafting world. "So I would buy it, I'd see something that was made with love and care, and I would purchase it. I never really thought I was capable of that."

"I was a very early advocate of the immaculate Christmas, making a big effort with that kind of stuff. But it was a surprising discovery for me that I was capable of making things myself."

However, she does admit defeat in some areas, but thinks that a fear of failure shouldn't put people off trying new things.

"The ones that I can't get good at involve knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching - I just can't feel my way towards them," she admits. "But a lot of the crafts are made much, much more difficult on the show by the time aspect, and by having the cameras there."

"There are times when you see me throwing a wobbly, but the truth is, I'm throwing a wobbly at the process of being filmed while under this kind of pressure. That is what gets to you - because you are doing this flower arrangement, for example, and someone will say 'Kirstie, can you talk about what you're feeling now?'"

Hopefully no wobblers will be thrown in the first of the latest run, which sees Allsopp get the ball rolling with a detailed handmade fairy and delicate diorama baubles.



Kirstie's Handmade Christmas, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

# BEST OF THE REST

the course of five years, the film-makers followed the youngster, charting his teenage life. The result is a portrait not just of one boy, but of childhood, adolescence and family.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Mary Berry's Country House Secrets BBC1, 8pm**  
Mary visits Powderham Castle in Devon to spend time with the Earl and Countess of Devon and their two young children, who are reinventing the Earldom for the 21st century. Mary's time with the family reveals stories of romance and tragedy as she discovers more of this extraordinary home. In the castle's historic kitchen, Mary prepares a Devon cream tea, before making a delicate peach posset for a Midsummer Eve woodland party the family are throwing to celebrate their two year anniversary at the castle.

**THURSDAY**  
**Great Canal Journeys Channel 4, 8pm**  
Timothy West and Prunella

Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century. The Monmouthshire and Brecon canal is cut off from the rest of Britain's network of waterways by the Black Mountains, and meanders its way through the tranquil Usk valley. Along the way the couple visit the old ironworks at Blaenavon, where children as young as five were once put to work, and lend a hand with some lock restoration work. They also explore the 15th-century castle at Tretower - which is rumoured to be haunted.

**FRIDAY**  
**Brunel: The Man Who Built Britain Channel 5, 8pm**  
Victorian visionary Isambard Kingdom Brunel is still regarded as one of Britain's greatest ever engineers - which is probably just the way he'd like it. In this two-part documentary, Rob Bell takes closer look at both Brunel's extraordinary achievements and the complex personality that drove them, and discovers that he was obsessed



The Real Marigold on Tour, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

with public acclaim. He would also stop at nothing to bring his projects to fruition - as well as risking his own life, hundreds of people were killed while working for him. In the first episode, Rob examines Brunel's first major project, the Thames Tunnel, which is still in use today as part of the London Overground rail. Construction began in 1825, under the direction of Brunel's father Marc, while Isambard was appointed chief engineer at the age of just 19.

**The Year in Music 2017 BBC2, 9pm**  
Last year, most of the music retrospectives seemed to focus on the big names we'd lost in 2016, including David Bowie, Prince and Leonard Cohen. But hopefully, this end-of-the-year round-up will prove to be a more celebratory affair as Claudia Winkleman and Clara Amfo look back at the musical highlights from the past 12 months, including the best albums, the biggest artists and some of the most unforgettable performances. Among the stars offering their take on 2017 are the Foo Fighters, Liam Gallagher, Stormzy, Nile Rodgers, Dua Lipa, Nick Grimshaw, Mistajam, and Jo Whaley, while Rag 'n' Bone Man obliges with an exclusive performance. And just to confirm who's had a good year, the winners of the 2017 BBC Music Awards will be announced.

Express & Star

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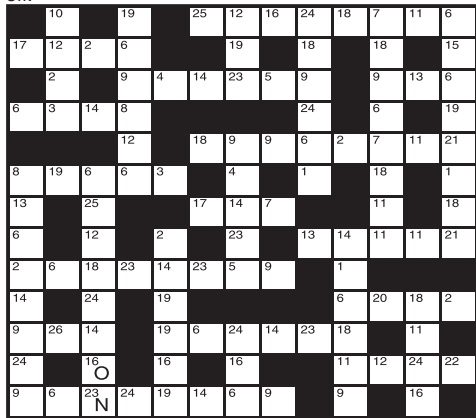


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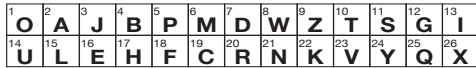
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## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

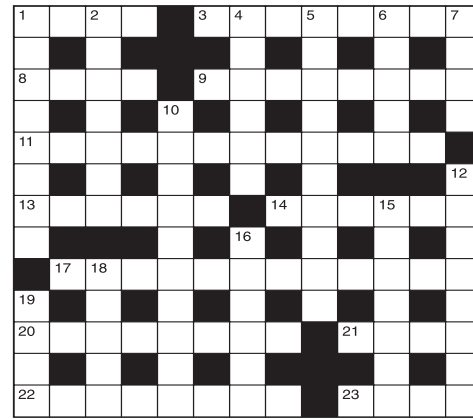
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Lay off the wine (4)
3. Agitated girl with unusually neat figure (8)
8. Puts away in great style (4)
9. One way of saying one doesn't like it (8)
11. Progressed with amorous overtures? (4,8)
13. Concerning bets on races (6)
14. Walk slowly along the street with a list (6)
17. One of the smoothest parts of the course (7,5)
20. Remained and gave personal service (6,2)
21. Something final to any buffoon (4)
22. Threatening to re-adjust my ration (8)
23. Bank of Scotland (4)

## Down

1. Vessels pilots take in the morning (8)
2. Keep changing dialect (7)
4. Always come up about six to refresh (6)
5. It provides an opportunity for advanced theatrical work (5,5)
6. A leading publication? (5)
7. A misshapen nose ages (4)
10. Simple way in which the affluent live (4,6)
12. Learnt by arrangement in Malawi (8)
15. One pair moved out of doors (4,3)
16. People enter for this sort of sport (6)
18. A joining of hands in marriage or work (5)
19. In tennis Wimbledon is one way to make progress (4)



## Quick Clues:

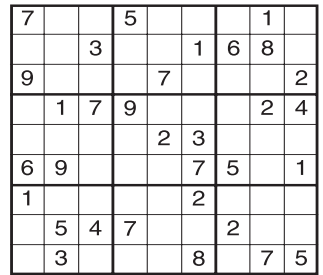
## Across

1. Image (4)
3. Set going (8)
8. Row (4)
9. Promontory (8)
11. Falsify (12)
13. Topics (6)
14. Fitting (6)
17. Betterment (12)
20. Baffle (8)
21. Despicable (4)
22. Scornful (8)
23. Dam across a river (4)

## Down

1. Familiar (8)
2. Superintend (7)
4. Joyous (6)
5. Manufacturing (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Whirlpool (4)
10. Insubordinate (10)
12. Majesty (8)
15. Archbishop (7)
16. Woodworker (6)
18. Lesser (5)
19. Frozen (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

1	5	8	7	6	4	2	3	9
4	9	2	8	3	1	6	7	5
6	7	3	9	2	5	1	8	4
7	1	5	6	8	3	9	4	2
8	4	6	1	9	2	7	5	3
3	2	9	5	4	7	8	1	6
2	3	7	4	1	6	5	9	8
9	6	1	3	5	8	4	2	7
5	8	4	2	7	9	3	6	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Obsolete; 9 Isolate; 10 Lisle; 11 Hindi; 12 Dentist; 13 Impend; 15 Scorer; 18 Good day; 20 Lyric; 22 Least; 23 Leisure; 24 Secretaries. Down: 2 Brown; 3 Ovation; 4 Emends; 5 Colon; 6 Nastier; 7 Nightingale; 8 Test cricket; 14 Profane; 16 Collier; 17 Eyelet; 19 Deiter; 21 Rouse. QUICK - Across: 1 Furthermore; 9 Stirrup; 10 Given; 11 Anele; 12 Ontario; 13 Levity; 15 Asleep; 18 Surplus; 20 Trait; 22 Edict; 23 Elation; 24 Undertaking. Down: 2 Unite; 3 Torrent; 4 Employ; 5 Might; 6 Reverie; 7 Established; 8 Incompetent; 14 Version; 16 Set-back; 17 Assent; 19 Lithe; 21 Alien.

## Quiz

1. Whose husband was King Prasutagus?
2. Of which country is the Orszaggyules the national assembly?
3. Which heavyweight boxer collapsed after his defeat by Herbie Hide?
4. Which Mr Moto star was born Laszlo Loewenstein?
5. Where was the first Test match between England and Australia played in 1880?
6. Who is the Greek counterpart of the Roman Jupiter?
7. In which country did kung fu originate?
8. Which fruit comes from the plant Rubus idaeus?
9. Which condition was treated by the Kenny method?
10. Who won a director's Oscar for The Last Emperor?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Dyslexia or alexia; 2 A bird; 3 The Wombles; 4 Elvis Costello; 5 William McKinley; 6 Parrot; 7 Dawn French; 8 Films; 9 Asteroid; 10 Sir Lancelot.

Niner: CAVERNOUS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

51381 gives a colour,  
87114 gives a second colour,  
9612 gives coloured.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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It was built to the Leamington design in 2013 by Bellway Homes.

The property has high quality fixtures and fittings throughout including granite working surfaces, porcelain tiles, re-fitted bathrooms and bespoke lighting. To the front of the property is a portion of land on the corner of the cul-de-sac and Sanstone Road included in the sale.

In more detail the entrance hall is welcoming and there is a guest cloakroom/WC, two storage cupboards and stairs leading off to the first floor.

The first room off the entrance hallway is the study. There is also a lounge and a kitchen/diner. This is a superb family living kitchen with integrated appliances, porcelain tiled flooring, granite worktops and two sets of French doors opening to the rear garden.

A utility room completes the ground floor accommodation.

Upstairs, the main feature of the landing is the central staircase with a feature chandelier.

The master bedroom has fitted wardrobes and an en-suite bathroom. The second bedroom also has fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room.

There are two further bedrooms and a bathroom which is luxuriously styled and has a separate shower cubicle.

Outside the rear garden is private and walled, having access to the double garage.

This has electric, lights and up and over doors to the driveway.

Opposite the property is a small plot of land that is included with the purchase.

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## Three-bedroom semi-detached in sought-after area

This attractive and very appealing three-bedroomed end semi-detached house in Popular Avenue, Bentley, Walsall, is for sale through Lets Move In Estate Agents at offers over £145,000.

In a sought-after area, it has a good-size driveway and has private space for further vehicles to the rear.

It is close to Junction 10 of the M6 and primary and secondary schools.

It has an entrance hallway with

**BENTLEY**  
**£145,000**

stairs off, real wood flooring and carpeted stairs.

The dining room/kitchen is spacious and open plan, having real wood flooring in the dining room area and dark slate colour tiles in the kitchen. With a neutral decor, patio doors lead to the rear garden. The kitchen has white and deep red

gloss units that complement the deep red splash back panelling. Integrated appliances include a washing machine, fridge-freezer and cooker with over head extractor fan.

Within this area is a door to a ground floor W/C.

The through living room also has real wood flooring and fitted blinds.

**To book that all important viewing, contact Lets Move In on 01922 315295 or visit [www.letsmovein.co.uk](http://www.letsmovein.co.uk)**



# SELL FROM £499 ONLY

**No Commission - No Hidden Fees**  
**Includes online advertising**  
**Viewings attended**



**Poplar Avenue, Bentley, Walsall WS2 0EW**

Three bedroom semi detached house situated within a popular area of Bentley Walsall. This is an ideal family home and ready to move into with no further upgrades needed. Stunningly presented with private parking to the rear.



**Barns Lane, Rushall WS4 1HF**

Three bedroom mid-terraced home situated within Rushall. Good sized property with on road parking. Ideal first time buy.  
**£125,000 offers over**



**Clift Close, Short Heath, Willenhall WV12 5QW**

Two bedroom town house situated off the beaten track within Short Heath, Willenhall. Ideal family home with no upgrading needed and ready to move into. Close to local primary and secondary schools.  
**£105,000 offers over**



**Milton Street, Palfrey, Walsall WS1 4JT**

Three bedroom mid terraced house. In need of full refurbishment and cash buy purchase only.  
**£95,000 OIRO**

**TO LET**



**Bloxwich Road, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2XE**

One bedroom spacious flat situated just out of Bloxwich town centre. Transport links within walking distance, long term rental available.

**£450 pcm Deposit and references apply**

**TO LET**



**Bloxwich Road, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2XE**

One bedroom spacious flat situated just out of Bloxwich town centre. Transport links within walking distance, Long term rental available. Currently undergoing work and will be available within 3-4 weeks. Application taken now.

**£465 pcm Deposit and references apply**

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# K. Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 12TH DECEMBER 2017



**51 TURLS HILL ROAD, SEDGLEY,  
DY3 1HQ**

**Ripe for refurbishment** - generous corner plot, Two Reception, Kitchen, Four Beds, Bathroom, Gas CH, Garage, Outbuilding. Epc: F33.

**Guide £110,000 / £115,000.**

Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 1st & 2nd December @ 9.45 a.m.



**LAWLEY ROAD, BILSTON,  
WV14 0NB**

**Residential Building Land. Planning Permission** granted for 4 Semi-Detached Three Bedroomed Houses - cul-de-sac location. Established residential area.

**Guide £115,000 / £120,000.**



**62 COTON ROAD, PENN,  
WV4 5AT**

Attractive individual Bungalow - some modernisation needed, 18ft Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., Basement Stores, Garage, terraced Garden. Epc: TBA.

**Guide £159,000**

Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 1st & 2nd December @ 11.00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.



**NEW VENUE****AUCTION****Monday 4th December 2017****7pm Prompt at****THE GARDEN ROOM, OAK FARM HOTEL****Watling Street, Hatherton,****Cannock, WS11 1SB**

Address	Wednesday 22nd & 29th November	Saturday 18th & 25th November & 2nd December
43 High Street, Chasetown, Burntwood	10.00am	10.00am
72 Cannock Road, Chase Terrace, Burntwood	10.30am	10.30am
Land to Rear of 77 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
1a Holden Crescent, Coalpool, Walsall	12.00pm	12.00pm
Amenity Woodland North East of 52 Cannock Road, Featherstone	BY CALLING ON SITE WITH AUCTION CATALOGUE TO HAND <b>PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS ENTER THE SITE AT THEIR OWN RISK</b>	
Land to Rear of 1-5 Victoria Street Off Cemetery Road, Cannock	BY CALLING ON SITE WITH AUCTION CATALOGUE TO HAND	
<b>01543 505454</b>		
www.bootandson.co.uk		

**PROPERTY****Two-bedroom detached bungalow in popular location**

Individually designed and considerably improved, 22 Station Road, Hednesford, is a two-bedroomed detached bungalow in a popular position, convenient for the town centre.

It is for sale through Boot & Son Estate Agents at £199,750.

It has a porch, a reception hall with laminate flooring and a cloaks cupboard, a lounge with a feature fire surround with a marble tiled inset, ceramic tiled hearth and a solid fuel grate and

**HEDNESFORD****£199,750**

laminate flooring, a breakfast kitchen with an integrated automatic dishwasher, an electric built-in oven, electric hob with stainless steel splash-back and oven hood over and ceramic tiled floor.

Of the two bedrooms, bedroom one has laminate flooring and the bathroom has been

re-fitted with a white and chrome suite including a bath with a shower attachment and shower screen. The home also has an integral garage, a studio/utility and an office room.

The property has well-stocked gardens incorporating lawns, numerous mature ornamental trees and shrubs, paved terrace and pathways, a tarmac driveway and there is a rear garden.

**Contact Boot & Son on 01543 505454.**

**SDL AUCTIONS**  
BIGWOOD

**14TH DECEMBER****Aston Villa Football Ground****Starting at 10:30am****AUCTION****170 LOTS**

To include properties on behalf of:

Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Associations



**132 Wilkes Avenue, Walsall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: **£59,000-£64,000**  
(plus fees)



**8 Riding Way, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: **£50,000** (plus fees)



**85 Bradley Lane, Bilston**  
2 Bed Semi Detached Bungalow  
Guide: **£45,000+** (plus fees)



**39 Shardlow Road, Wednesfield**  
3 Bed Semi Detached Property  
Guide: **£85,000+** (plus fees)



**67 Brewer Street, Walsall**  
2 Bed Mid-Terraced House  
Guide: **£45,000+** (plus fees)



**27 Hilton Road, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: **£65,000+** (plus fees)



**50 Cedar Avenue, Bilston**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: **£59,000-£64,000**  
(plus fees)



**176 Atlantic Road, Great Barr**  
2 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£50,000+** (plus fees)



**2 Webster Road, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£19,000-£24,000**  
(plus fees)



**33a Lawnside Green, Stowlawn**  
1 Bed Residential Investment  
Gross Current Income: £4,800 pa.  
Guide: **£44,000-£48,000** (plus fees)

Vacant Residential Properties, Residential Investments, Vacant Commercial Properties, Commercial Investments, Land/Development Opportunities, Garages & Ground Rents

**0121 233 5046**  **www.sdlauctions.co.uk**  **@SDLBigwood**

Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or - 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to [www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary](http://www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary). All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice.





View: 1/12 @ 11:15 4/12 @ 11:15, 6/12 @ 13:30; 9/12 @ 12:45



**360 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed detached bungalow with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £50,000 + (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 10:00; 4/12 @ 10:00, 6/12 @ 14:45; 9/12 @ 12:00



**112 Old Heath Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 14:00; 4/12 @ 14:00, 6/12 @ 10:45; 9/12 @ 10:30



**8 Riding Way, Willenhall**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £50,000 + (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 10:45; 4/12 @ 10:45; 6/12 @ 14:00; 9/12 @ 13:15



**30 Filey Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed end terraced house with driveway parking, in need of refurbishment works  
**Guide: £25,000 + (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 12:45; 4/12 @ 12:45; 6/12 @ 12:00; 9/12 @ 11:15



**86 Bolton Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 bed house with land to the rear, with development potential, subject to planning  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 12:00; 2/12 @ 12:00; 4/12 @ 12:00; 6/12 @ 12:45



**98 Ellerton Walk, Wolverhampton,**  
Long leasehold 3 bed duplex maisonette with part double glazing  
**Guide: £10,000 + (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 14:45; 4/12 @ 14:45; 6/12 @ 10:00; 9/12 @ 9:45



**132 Wilkes Avenue, Walsall**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £59,000 - £64,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 11:45; 4/12 @ 11:45; 6/12 @ 13:30; 8/12 @ 11:45



**50 Cedar Avenue, Bilston**  
3 bed semi detached house with central heating and majority double glazing  
**Guide: £59,000 - £64,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 11:00; 2/12 @ 11:00; 4/12 @ 11:00; 6/12 @ 14:15



**60 Fisher Street, Tipton**  
Long leasehold 2 bed duplex maisonette with central heating  
**Guide: £15,000 - £19,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 12:30; 4/12 @ 12:30; 6/12 @ 12:45; 8/12 @ 12:30



**52 Commonside, Brierley Hill**  
3 bed mid terraced house  
**Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 14:15; 4/12 @ 14:15; 6/12 @ 11:00; 8/12 @ 14:15



**16 Overdale Road, Quinton**  
3 bed semi detached house  
**Guide: £50,000 + (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 10:00; 2/12 @ 13:30; 4/12 @ 10:00; 6/12 @ 15:15



**56 Bridgelands Way, Perry Barr**  
3 bed duplex maisonette  
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000 (plus fees)**

View: 1/12 @ 15:15; 4/12 @ 15:15; 6/12 @ 10:00; 8/12 @ 15:15



**30 Marjoram Close, Kings Norton**  
3 bed mid terraced town house  
**Guide: £50,000 + (plus fees)**





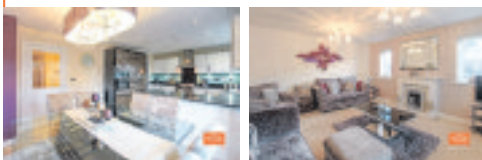
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**Par Court, Bloxwich**

- Impressive Detached Family Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Open Plan Living Space
- Upgraded Fixtures & Fittings
- Granite Kitchen Worktops
- Bespoke Lighting
- Detached Double Garage
- Views over Bloxwich Golf Club
- Prestigious Development
- Excellent Energy Efficiency Rating (B-84)

£439,950



- Ferndown Close, Turnberry Estate**
- Four Bedroom Detached Property
  - Secluded Cul-de-Sac Location
  - Four Good Sized Bedrooms
  - Potential to Extend (STPP)
  - Double Garage
  - EPC - TBC

£350,000



- Wallington Heath, Bloxwich**
- Very Well Presented Detached
  - Four Good Sized Bedrooms
  - Modern Breakfast Kitchen
  - Lounge & Dining Room
  - Guest Cloakroom and Utility Room
  - EPC - D 67

£280,000



- Stafford Close, Bloxwich**
- Superbly Presented Detached Bungalow
  - Two Double Bedrooms
  - Extended Modern Kitchen
  - Refitted Shower Room
  - Gas Central Heating
  - EPC - D 65

£275,000



- Field Road, Bloxwich**
- Beautiful Detached Family Home
  - Four Good Sized Bedrooms
  - Two Reception Rooms
  - Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
  - Conservatory
  - EPC - C 80

£239,950



**Long Lane, Great Wryley**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- EPC - D 62

£225,000



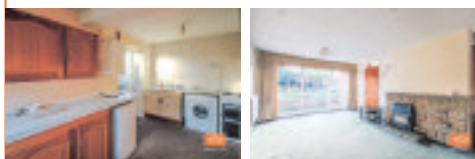
- Griffins Crescent, Walsall**
- 'The Kingsford' Design by Taylor Wimpey
  - Popular Saddlers Brook Development
  - Three Bedroom Semi Detached
  - Easy Access to Local Towns and the M6
  - Granite Tiled Flooring in Hall & Kitchen
  - EPC - C 79

£190,000



- Woodall Street, Bloxwich**
- Four Bed Detached
  - Fitted Kitchen
  - Lounge/Diner
  - Guest W.C.
  - Family Bathroom
  - EPC - C 79

£180,000



**Perth Road, Summer Hayes**

- Two Bedroom Link Detached Bungalow
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Desirable Summer Hayes Area
- Extended Kitchen
- Lounge with Recently Upgraded Patio
- Tiled Shower Room
- Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - TBC

£160,000



- Follyhouse Lane, Highgate**
- Period Style Property
  - Three Bedroom End of Terrace
  - Recently Refurbished
  - Traditional Style Kitchen
  - Ground Floor Bathroom
  - EPC - E 52

£150,000



- Grantown Grove, Turnberry**
- Two Bedroom End Terrace
  - Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
  - Popular Turnberry Estate
  - Lounge
  - Kitchen/Diner
  - EPC - D 64

O.I.E.O £140,000



- Usk Close, Bloxwich**
- Well Presented Semi-Detached
  - Cul-de-Sac Location
  - Driveway for Two Cars
  - Ground Floor WC
  - Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
  - EPC - D 68

£140,000



- Rochester Croft, Reedswood**
- Very Well Presented End of Terrace
  - Three Bedrooms
  - Modern Bathroom
  - Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
  - Conservatory
  - EPC - D 66

O.I.E.O £135,000



- Astbury Close, Turnberry Estate**
- Popular Turnberry Estate
  - Ideal First Time Buy
  - Close to Bloxwich Train Station
  - Good Access To M6 Motorway
  - Ample Off Road Parking
  - EPC - C 70

£135,000



- Somerfield Road, Bloxwich**
- Extended Mid-Terrace
  - Main Lounge
  - Dining Room
  - Extended Breakfast Kitchen
  - Refitted Bathroom
  - EPC - E 54

£120,000



- Bloxwich Road, Walsall**
- Beautifully Presented Victorian Terrace
  - Three Bedrooms
  - Two Reception Rooms
  - Contemporary Style Kitchen & Bathroom
  - Log Burner in the Lounge
  - EPC - D 55

O.I.E.O £110,000



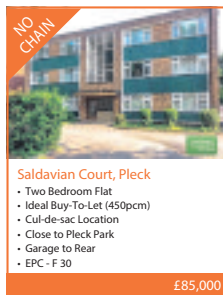
- Hadley Way, Beechdale**
- Deceptively Spacious Mid Town House
  - Three Bedrooms
  - Fitted Kitchen
  - Generous Living Room
  - Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle
  - EPC - C 73

O.I.E.O £110,000



- Lister Road, Beechdale**
- CONDITIONAL ONLINE AUCTION
  - Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
  - No Upward Chain
  - Ideal First Purchase
  - Suitable Buy-To-Let
  - EPC - C 74

Guide Price £95,000



- Saldavian Court, Pleck**
- Two Bedroom Flat
  - Ideal Buy-To-Let (450pcm)
  - Cul-de-sac Location
  - Close to Pleck Park
  - Garage to Rear
  - EPC - F 30

£85,000



- Wareham Close, Walsall**
- One Bedroom House
  - Ideal Buy-To-Let (450pcm)
  - Lounge with Feature Fireplace
  - Fitted Kitchen
  - Double Bedroom
  - Modern Bathroom
  - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
  - Off Road Parking
  - Cul-de-Sac Location
  - EPC - D 64

O.I.E.O £75,000

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**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Detached Family Home
- Sought After Location
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Room, Conservatory
- Refitted Kitchen, WC

**OFFERS OVER \$250,000**

**BLOXWICH**  
SIMMONDS ROAD

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Impressive Semi Detached
- Sought After Location
- Porch, Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Utility, WC

**Offers Over \$160,000**

**BLOXWICH**  
FIELD ROAD

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Modern Semi Detached
- Lounge, WC
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Parking to Rear

**\$124,950**

**BLOXWICH**  
SNEYD LANE

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Lounge, Extended Kitchen Diner, Guest Wc.
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom.
- Front And Rear Gardens.

**\$129,950**



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\* Terms and Conditions apply.

**BLOXWICH**  
STANLEY STREET

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Entrance Hallway, Lounge Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Guest WC.
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom.
- Private Driveway
- Front and

**\$119,950**

**BLOXWICH**  
STONEY LANE

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Impressive Bungalow
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Family Room
- 4/5 Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Enclosed

**\$350,000 Offers Over**

**WALSALL**  
EAGLEWORKS

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Ground Floor
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Viewing

**\$39,950 40% Shared**

**FEATHERSTON**  
OAKS DRIVE

**SSTC**  
Similar Required

- Generous Kitchen
- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Two Double
- Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom.
- Landscaped Gardens
- Private Driveway.

**\$154,950**

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# auction HOUSE

Birmingham &  
Black Country

## Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

# 0121 289 3838

# Auction

Tuesday 5th  
December 2017  
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall  
Football Club, Bescot  
Crescent, Walsall. WS1 4SA

### LOT 1 Glastonbury Crescent Bloxwich

30th November 11:45am



Situated in a popular residential area this three bedroom semi detached property is ideally suited towards an investor. The first floor of the property is in need of total modernisation and improvement whereas the ground floor requires only light modernisation.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

### LOT 2 Chigwell Close Castle Vale

27th November 3:30pm



A modern semi detached family home, with part double glazing and gas fired central heating. Conveniently located the property offers spacious well planned living accommodation and is in need of basic improvements. Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Large fully enclosed Porch, front door to Entrance Hall, with large store cupboard off and Guest W.C. Lounge 4.07m x 3.81m, Dining Room 3.09m x 3.79m, Kitchen 4.07m x 2.85 with oven and hob and range of units. First Floor Landing with airing cupboard provides access to Bedroom 1 (front) 4.1m x 2.9m, Bedroom 2 (front) 3.14m x 3.85m, Bedroom 3 (rear) 3.84m x 2.034m, Bedroom 4 (rear) 3.23m x 2.86m. Bathroom.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

### LOT 3 Colehill Road Hodge Hill

27th November 3pm



This traditionally styled gas centrally heated and double glazed detached property is located on a corner plot in a sought after residential area of Birmingham. With good transport links, the property is in need of some basic modernisation, but offers an ideal opportunity for owner occupation or as an investor. Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall with W.C. off, Open plan through Lounge/Dining Room, Lounge area measuring 4.56m x 3.44m with bay to front and feature fireplace, Dining Area 3.47m x 3.62m with sliding patio doors to rear Garden. Kitchen 3.23m x 2.86m with range of units. First Floor Staircase leads to landing with access to Bedroom 1 (front) 4.62m x 3.38m, Bedroom 2 (rear) 3.48m x 3.41m, Bedroom 3 (rear) 2.93m x 2.46m, Bathroom with matching suite.

●Guide Price £215,000 PLUS

### LOT 4 Working Mens Club, Hednesford Road Brownhills

By appointment through Auctioneer



Situated just off the A5 Watling Street within a short distance of Brownhills Town Centre, this former Working Men's Club occupies a plot approximately 0.36 of an acre and lends itself for residential development, subject to the necessary Planning. Set back behind a small forecourt, there is a side driveway leading to ample off street parking.

●Guide Price £135,000 PLUS

### LOT 5a Heath Way Birmingham

29th November 9:30am, 4th December 9:30am



This two bedroom first floor flat is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area within Castle Bromwich which provides easy transport links to the M6 and therefore Birmingham Town Centre. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Leasehold First Floor Lounge (4.7m x 2.9m), Kitchen (2.9m x 2m), Bathroom (1.9m x 1.3m), Bedroom One (3.6m x 2.9m), Bedroom Two (3.6m x 1.8m) Lease Details 125 years from 1st August 1988. We understand there is a Ground Rent £10.00 per annum. Buyers Premium A Buyers Premium of £950.00 plus v.a.t. (£1,140.00 inc v.a.t.) will be charged for this lot.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

### LOT 7 Bloxwich Road Walsall

28th November 11am



Situated within a short distance of Walsall Town Centre, this Victorian mid terraced property offers spacious well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas central heating and part double glazing. Ideally suited to the needs of an investor or first time buyer.

●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

### LOT 8 Holden Crescent Walsall

28th November 11:30am



This ground floor maisonette is situated in a convenient location ideal for buy to let investment. Offering upvc double glazing the property includes: Ground Floor Living Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower/Bathroom Outside Communal Rear Gardens

●Guide Price £32,000 PLUS

### LOT 8a Church Walk Chasetown

By appointment through Auctioneers



●Substantially reduced from it's last asking price by £55,000● Situated in Chasetown, Burntwood, this modern link detached family home with central heating and double glazing is local to all amenities and comprises of the following:-

●Guide Price £200,000 PLUS

### LOT 10 Stowe Street Bloxwich

30th November 11:15am



Situated in a popular residential area a short distance from Bloxwich town centre this three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation throughout. This property would be ideally suited towards an investor and with all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Lounge (4.7m x 3.3m), Kitchen (5.5m x 2.8m) and W.C. First Floor Bedroom one (3.5m x 2.6m), Bedroom two (3.8m x 2.9m), Bedroom three (2.9m x 1.7m), Bathroom (1.9m x 2.1m)

●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

### LOT 11 Stag Hill Road Bloxwich

30th November 10:45am



This three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation throughout. This property offers a lot of potential and would be ideally suited towards an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Reception Room (3.9m x 3.9m), Kitchen (5.1m x 2.2m) with door providing access to rear. First Floor Bedroom one (4.2m x 2.9m), Bedroom two (3.6m x 2.5m).

●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS

### LOT 12 Sunnymede Road Kingswinford

27th November 11am



This three bedroom semi detached property offers great potential for a future purchaser. With double glazing and gas central heating already fitted this property requires little modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area.

●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

### LOT 13a Rosary Road Birmingham

29th November 11am, 4th December 11am



This double fronted semi detached residence is situated in a popular location within Erdington. Set in an elevated position the property offers spacious accommodation but is in need of some modernisation.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide



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ANY LIKE FOR LIKE

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fully fitted for  
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complete with handles

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/ 07951 922879

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15 years' experience

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Carpets, Upholstery,  
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www.jptechniclean.co.uk Est. 1994

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Normal Price Special Price  
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2 seater sofa £32 £16

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STANDARD TANALISED

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6' x 4' £19.00 £22.00 £12.50 £14.00

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 10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**  
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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Dated: December 1, 2017



**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 10 - 11) (METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WALSALL AND THE COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited has made an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall and the County of Staffordshire, to allow removal of overhead camera works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close –

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- (ii) the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10.

The work will be carried out overnight between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 11 December 2017 and continue for three nights. The Order will come into force on Monday 4 December 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance, or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closures.

A diversion route via the A463, the A4123, the A4150, the A460 and the M54 will be signed.

For further information please contact Paul Siddall on 0300 470 3538.

**Karen Eustace**, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

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**Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation**

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The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. **Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Geoff Hurst scoring the final goal – and his hat-trick – for England in the World Cup final of 1966



Morgan Gibbs-White played a key role in England's under-17s' World Cup triumph



Legendary Wolves player Ron Flowers

# How Ron also played his part for World Cup heroes



Getting stuck in – Wolves legend Ron Flowers, right, in action

**WOLVES** youngster Morgan Gibbs-White played a key role as England's under-17s spectacularly triumphed at last month's World Cup.

The winger netted against the USA in the quarter-finals before scoring again in the final as the Three Lions came from behind to hammer Spain 5-2.

It's a result that has led to England fans dreaming the young starlets may one day replicate their form for the senior side. And it seems whenever the national side does triumph on the world stage, a Wolves player is at the heart of it.

Of course, England's one and only major tournament win came at the World Cup on home turf in 1966. And while Wolves legend Ron Flowers didn't kick a ball in anger at that tournament, he certainly played his part.

Spotted as a teenager by scouts while playing for Doncaster Rovers, Flowers joined Wolves in 1952.

## Convince

Initially boss Stan Cullis had to convince Ron's father Jack to allow him to sign – with his dad preferring his son stayed in Yorkshire to continue an apprenticeship with train firm LNER Locomotive.

But Ron and Stan got their way and for the next 15 years Flowers became integral to a Wolves side that enjoyed huge success.

Playing at either wing-half or centre-half, he formed an outstanding partnership with Peter Broadbent. And that formed the bedrock of the Wolves teams that won the League Championship in 1954, 1958 and 1959, as well as the FA Cup in 1960.

In total, Flowers made 512 appearances for the club between 1952 and 1967, scoring 37 goals – putting him sixth in the club's all-time list of appearance makers.

His form in gold and black also allowed him to shine on the international stage.

In 49 appearances for England, Flowers scored 10 goals and played in the 1962 World Cup.

But in an exclusive interview he said there was a particular reason why he was included in Sir Alf Ramsey's triumphant squad in 1966.

As the oldest member of the group, Flowers re-

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

*"As far as I had been concerned, my England career was finished. I hadn't been expecting the call."*

vealed he was there to set an example. "I was there to do a job," he said.

"As far as I had been concerned, my England career was finished. I hadn't been expecting the call."

Flowers also came a whisker away from playing in the biggest game in English football.

Before the final in 1966, Jack Charlton had told Ramsey he was struggling with a cold. And that prompted the boss to put Flowers on stand-by.

"The message was, be ready," explains Flowers.

"It was not, as you might expect however, the cause of any nerves, or indeed a restless night. It didn't make any difference to my thinking.

## Private

"I knew whatever he might have come down with, he would play.

"Do you really think Jack Charlton was going to miss out on the World Cup final because of a cold?"

"It would have needed to have been one heck of a cold."

In those days, players who didn't play in the final didn't receive a winner's medal. But Flowers' role in England's greatest achievement would eventually be acknowledged.

In 2009, Prime Minister Gordon Brown invited all 10 players who missed out to Downing Street for a private reception.

They were then finally presented with a medal which they got to parade on the pitch at Wembley at half-time during England's clash with Andorra.

## Book on boss Taylor set for publication

THE biography of the former Villa, Wolves and England boss Graham Taylor was being released this week. Sir Elton John has provided the foreword for the book, Graham Taylor: In His Own Words, which was going on sale today (Thursday). Published by Peloton, it is available as a hardback, priced £19.99

Taylor, who passed away aged 72 in January, had been working on the publication since 2014 with journalist Lionel Birnie. It was completed with support from Taylor's family. His widow Rita said it had been a 'very important' project for him.

The book covers Taylor's playing days at Grimsby Town and Lincoln City and into his managerial career, guiding Watford from the Fourth Division to the top flight, on to Villa and then as national boss. It goes on to cover England's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, and the impact of subsequent press coverage on his family – before restoring his reputation as club boss with spells at Wolves and back at Watford.

## Mayor leads pitch as 3G facilities unveiled

THE Mayor Sandwell was officially unveiling two 3G artificial grass pitches at the George Salter Academy this week. Councillor Ahmadul Haque was launching the facilities yesterday (Wednesday).

The project was made possible thanks to a £462,000 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, which is delivered by the Football Foundation. The pitches will replace two existing sand-dressed AGPs, which were in poor condition due to age, with new floodlit all-weather playing surfaces.

They will not only benefit the Academy's students, but also partner clubs Tantany Lions FC and Greets Green Albion FC who train and play there and are expected to introduce 14 new teams collectively.

Founded in 2000, the Football Foundation is the largest sports charity in the UK funded by the Premier League, The FA and Government, via Sport England. It develops new and refurbished facilities in order to improve the quality and experience of playing sport at grassroots level.

## Captain at double in England success

SKIPPER Steph Houghton led by example as England Women roared to a 4-0 World Cup qualifying success over Bosnia & Herzegovina at Walsall's Banks's Stadium last Friday night.

Houghton netted twice in front of a sell-out crowd, with Manchester City team-mate Nikita Parris and Chelsea's Fran Kirby also on target.

A first victory for caretaker boss Mo Marley kept England hot on the heels of Group One leaders Wales ahead of Tuesday's game against Kazakhstan at Colchester.

Houghton headed England into a 19th-minute lead following Alex Greenwood's corner. England's Barcelona striker Toni Duggan was denied by the woodwork and Danielle Carter squandered a golden chance.

Less than a minute into the second period, Duggan set up Parris to make it 2-0. Houghton fired her second direct from a 54th-minute free-kick and after Aida Hadzic fouled Carter in the area, Kirby completed the scoring from the penalty spot.





## Wood slide to defeat at the Adders

**Atherstone Town 3 Walsall Wood 2**  
THE Adders closed the gap on Wood to four points thanks to a goal in the 93rd minute.

It was a contest between the division's hottest strikers Alex Naughton and Paul Sullivan who both scored twice. The difference on the day was Luke Shorthouse who scored Town's second equaliser.

It was Sullivan who broke the deadlock after just 10 minutes, as he turned and held up the ball before hitting a right foot shot that crashed in off the bar.

Naughton equalised from the spot after Ryan Quinn was felled.

Wood restored their lead on 33 minutes as Craig Deakin played in Tony Clarke who played the ball across goal for Sullivan to tuck home and give Wood an interval advantage.

Adders took 10 minutes of the second half to draw level again. Kyle Baxter crossed from wide right, goalkeeper Lloyd Ransome was fooled by the flight of the ball and Shorthouse pounced at the far post to tap home.

The winner came in the 93rd minute after a long injury delay. From a right wing corner Wood failed to clear at the near post and Naughton turned and fired home.

Wood were hosting Wednesfield on Tuesday in the Walsall Senior Cup and on Saturday Wood visit Stourport Swifts again in the third round of the FA Vase. Wood beat Swifts 4-0 last week in the Polymac Packaging League Cup thanks to goals from Callum McFarlane, Stan Mugisha (2) and Sam Agar.

## On-loan Sangha's early goal wins the game for Pics

**Rushall Olympic 1 Mickleover Sports 0**  
AN early Jordon Sangha goal was enough to give Rushall Olympic victory in an Evo-Stik Premier match of few chances at Dales Lane.

Mickleover went close after four minutes, when player-manager John McGrath tried his luck from 25 yards, which was tipped around the post by Rushall keeper Jahquill Hill.

Barely a minute later, the Pics took the lead through on-loan Walsall man Sangha, who got on the end of a ball in from the left to slide the ball past Lewis King.

Rushall did a good job of restricting their visitors to possession in the middle third and Mickleover didn't create any clear cut chances after Sangha's goal.

Alex Morris got on the end of a John McGrath cross on 51 minutes, but the Sports defender couldn't get enough on his header to trouble Hill.

The Pics could have put the game out of sight on 82 minutes when a Sam Whittall ball over the top played in Richard Brodie, but the former York City man fired narrowly over.

## Saddlers players deliver in school visit



Players Devlin and Guthrie with Paul Larvin

TWO Saddlers defenders dropped in on a Can-nock school for a Premier League Primary stars session.

Jon Guthrie and Nicky Devlin visited Redhill Primary to deliver their final lesson of an eight-week course focusing on Premier League Primary Stars' key values.

The players spoke about their experience of these as footballers, as well as answering questions, presenting certificates and signing autographs for the Year 4 pupils. Devlin said: "To

come and see the impact that the Premier League Primary Stars programme has had on the kids has been brilliant. I really enjoyed it."

Guthrie added: "I've enjoyed it and you can see the impact Premier League Primary Stars is having on the kids."

Community manager Paul Larvin led the sessions at Redhill. He said: "The players have been fantastic. The children have really responded well to having them in school and they've managed to ask lots of really great questions."

# MORE WORK TO COME - WHITS

## BOSS Jon Whitney is refusing to accept Walsall have turned a corner despite back-to-back wins over Fleetwood and AFC Wimbledon.

Saturday's victory at Wimbledon meant the Saddlers registered consecutive wins in League One for the first time this season.

But Whitney insists he and his players know they are still plenty of hard work to be done.

"You cannot say we have turned a corner," he said. "What we have done now is work damned hard again. But I think the last four performances are what I'm really pleased about. There are plenty of areas we can improve after Wimbledon."

"But if you have got a group of players who wear the shirt with pride, that put a shift in and who dig in when it's needed you have chance."

"Our target now is to push on into the top half," Whitney added. "But it's Bury first in the Checktrade Trophy and we want to get into the next round."

### Spectacular

In a pulsating encounter in south west London, the game sprung into life thanks to yet more magic from Erhun Oztumer.

Goalkeeper George Long scuffed a clearance and as it made its way towards the halfway line, Oztumer rifled a spectacular strike into the top corner from 30 yards. It was a goal of the highest quality. And then on the half-hour, the Saddlers doubled their lead with an equally classy second.

This time Zeli Ismail produced a wonderful piece of skill to control a long ball forward with his chest and then hit the byline. And he then delivered a low cross which Ama Bakayoko squeezed home from close range.

In the opening half-an hour, the hosts had barely laid a glove on Whitney's side but reduced the arrears before half-time when Cody McDonald escaped the attentions of Kory Roberts before squaring for Lyle Taylor to tap home.



Erhun Oztumer takes a shot during Saturday's 2-1 victory over AFC Wimbledon in League One

## Unbeaten home record maintained

**Walsall 14 Tamworth 7**  
WALSALL preserved their unbeaten home record against a hard-working Tamworth side.

The hosts seemed to have gained an advantage and a good scoring position after an illegal tackle on Rob Angell. However, the penalty was reversed due to retaliation from another Walsall player. Instead it was Tam-

worth who scored first, winger Jimmy Carrol wit a try, Dan Norton adding the extras.

Eventually, Roger Weston put over a challenging 30m penalty. The half came to an end with the visitors missing a penalty from 40m and also having a player sent to the sinbin.

Weston added two further second half penalties, one a

superb touchline effort from nearly 40m. More Tamworth ill-discipline was punished with another yellow and Walsall completed the scoring with Sam Garbet try.

Walsall United had a 31-12 win at Bournville, tries from Tom Thorley and Jack Crowhurst (2) and Ross Gauden, Andy Hawkins converted three.

## Visitors' lead at the top is extended

**Darlaston Town (1874) 0 Newport 3**  
LEAGUE leaders Newport Town extended their unbeaten League run to eight games with an excellent performance against an out of sorts Darlaston.

Both sides were ravaged by injuries and player unavailability but it was Newport's strength in depth which was evident as they pulled clear at the top.

Simon Jackson hit the post for the visitors on 15 minutes with the ball rebounding across the goal-line before being cleared by Martin Stanton.

Newport pressure told five minutes before half-time when Jack Bradley put them ahead after Darlaston failed to clear their lines.

Just after half-time the Darlaston defence backed off Newport defender Joe Trickett whose speculative cross into the penalty area found the unmarked Jackson at the far post and he tapped home from four yards.

The second goal seemed to galvanise the hosts and they enjoyed their best spell. Stanton headed straight at Andy Heal in goal, Leon Taylor blasted over and Scott Broadway was denied by an excellent block.

The scoreline was given a flattering look in the final minute when Rob Millington netted Newport's third goal from two yards following a goal line mix-up between keeper Aaron Morris and Kieron Payne.

On Saturday Darlaston travel to Telford Juniors in the West Midlands Regional League Division One, 20 km.

## Calls for an end to 'toxic' atmosphere

THE secretary of Walsall Supporters' Trust has called on the boo boys to lay off Jon Whitney and the club's directors.

Steve Davies is alarmed by a "toxic" atmosphere despite back-to-back wins for the Saddlers. Club director Dan Mole is also understood to have been subjected to abuse by an angry fan during the recent 1-0 home defeat to Gillingham.

Davies said: "The atmosphere around the club is horrible at the moment. It really isn't a nice place to go at all."

Meanwhile, Whitney could be tempted to make a renewed move for ex-Macclesfield wideman Danny Rowe who was made available for loan from Ipswich.

\*\*\*  
The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettley, Telford.  
Thursday, November 30, 2017



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7. 9ct White Gold 0.25ct Diamond Pendant Was-£600 **Now £295**

THE • 1 8 8 8  
COLLECTION

Certified Diamonds

HAND PICKED FROM THE 5TH GENERATION OF OUR FAMILY



£895



£2,495



£3,495



£2,195



£995



£2,395

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Est. 1888

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### DIAMONDS



£650



£950



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£1,695

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timepieces & jewellery



£295



£690



£910



£680

T+TISSOT



£345



£380



£485



£170

MICHAEL KORS



£229



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£185



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FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

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